

W O R O N I

Mathew Kenneally
Presidential Candidate

Max Jeganathan
Presidential Candidate
Momentum Nexus

Stephen Hally-Burton
Presidential Candidate
UNESCO

Jeremy Farrell
Treasurer Candidate

Jimmy Stewart
Treasurer Candidate
UNESCO

Anna Joy Hoffmann
General Secretary Candidate
Momentum Nexus

Duncan Harrod
Presidential Candidate
Students First

Emily Byrne
Presidential Candidate

David Sykes
Vice-President Candidate
Students First

Grace Bryant
Vice-President Candidate
UNESCO

Jiann Yuh Ong
Treasurer Candidate
Momentum Nexus

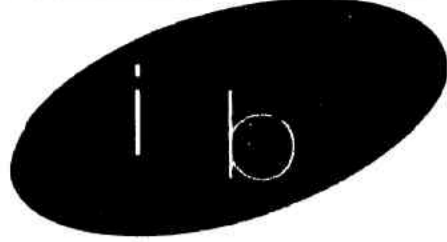
Ryan Hamilton
General Secretary Candidate
Students First

Dom Coleman
General Secretary Candidate

Erika Bellmar
Social Officer Candidate
Students First

OWAN PATTERSON
General Secretary Candidate
UNESCO

issue 8 vol 55
September 2003



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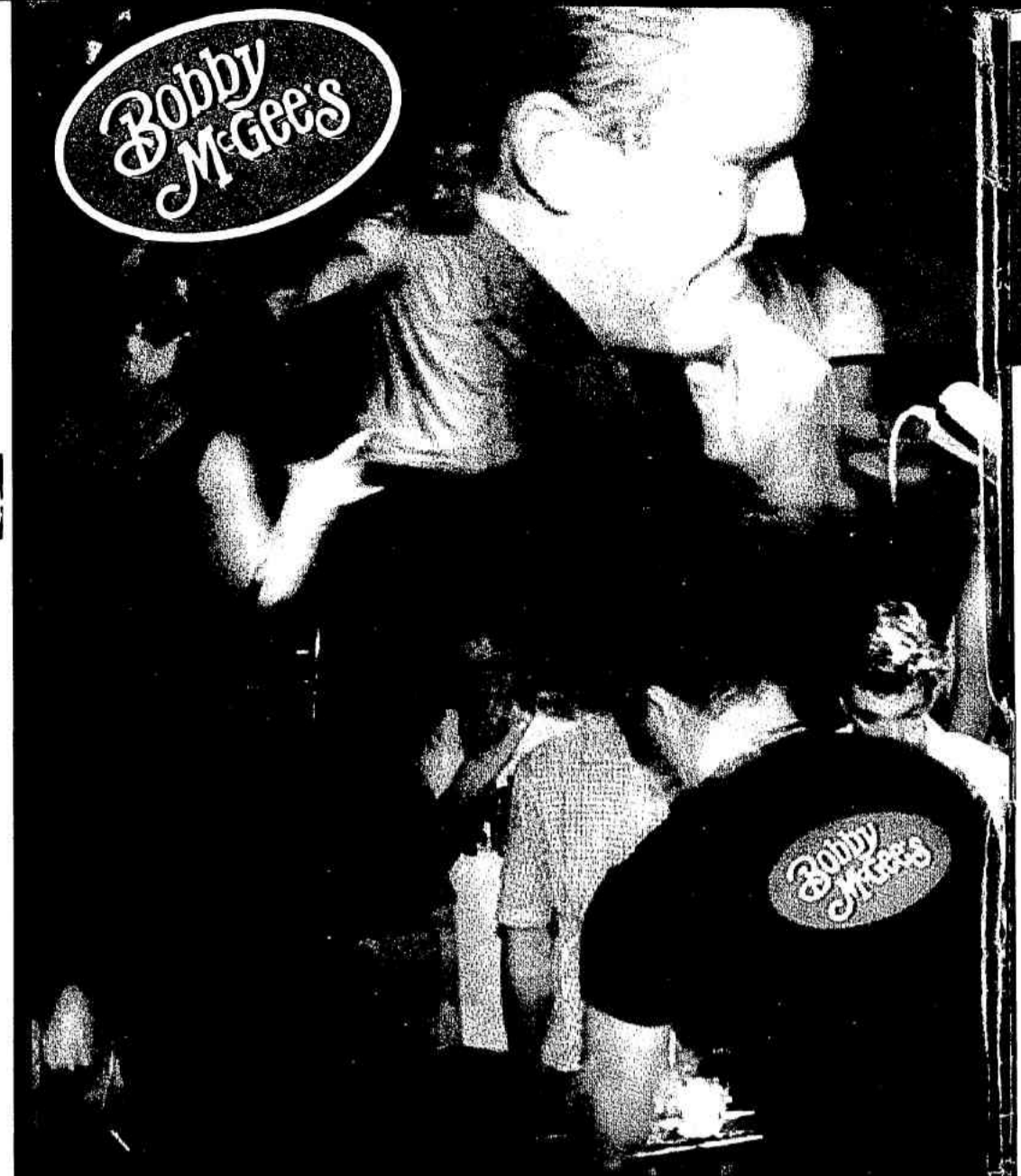


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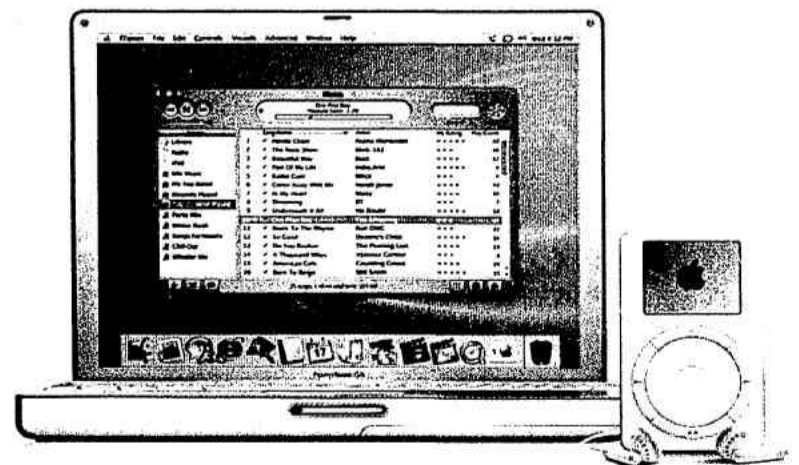
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Thousand and
Three
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the all about
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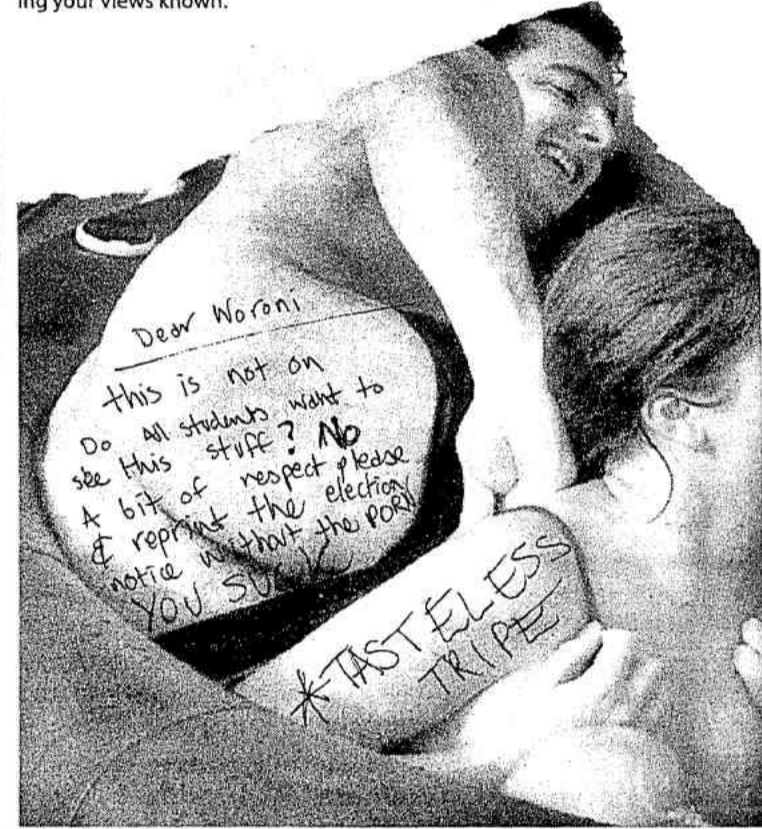
Love and kisses: Nich for doing an enormous amount of totally thankless work so that the students of the ANU could see the election candidates and their statements. It wouldn't have happened without him. Stephen Still, Michelle McWilliam, Bronwyn Evans.

Kick in the ass: The large number of would be student politicians and others who made the task of organising election issue all the more difficult. Your "no-think" approach is pretty stoopid! The ones deserving of the biggest kick in the ass know who they are. People who write for magazines but won't let Editors edit.

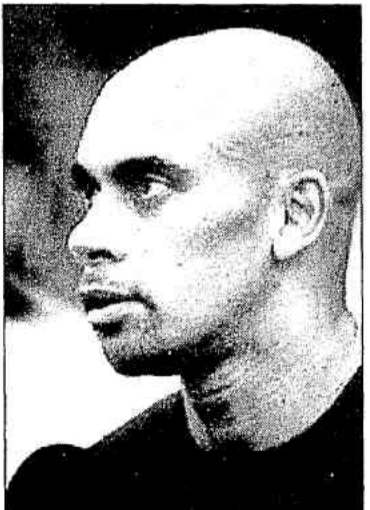
Woroni is the official magazine of the ANU Students' Association. Woroni aims to provide a snapshot of campus and student activities, ideas and interests. Because of this, some articles may contain coarse language and sexual or otherwise adult themes. The views and opinions communicated in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editors or anyone in the Students' Association. Woroni can be contacted on (02) 6248 7127 by phone, (02) 6125 3967 by fax, or by email at woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au

...very happy with how Open Day went. So much music and fun. Pity about the weather. Kudos to all the ANU students who helped out on the day. You guys rock!

...happy that at least someone was brave enough to bother to come to our office. Whoever you are, thank you for making your views known.

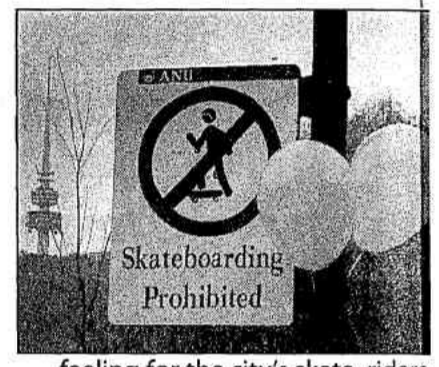


...weirded out by the range of people who are supposedly pissed off about Woroni printing Scav Hunt nudity. Everyone keeps on telling us you're out there. If you really cared we would expect letters to arrive in the Woroni in-box. Anonymous threats and hate-mail are, well, just that...anonymous threats and hate-mail. If you're pissed off, have the courage to put your name to it...



...excited by the prospects of electionweek. The Indies, the Left and the Right all seem to have come out to play. Maty K. and all the crazy cats from "I" get special mention for running one of the funnier joke tickets in recent memory.

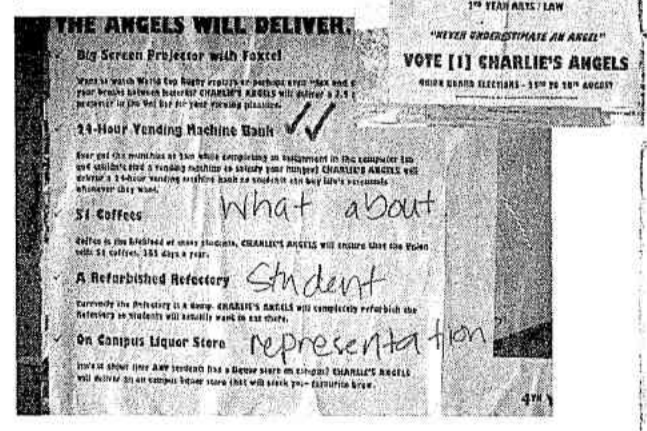
...pissed at Telstra for leaving us without a freakin' phone for all of deadline weekend. Nice work guys, if Woroni comes out late it's because we couldn't talk to the printers. Apologies if anyone tried to phone us and couldn't!



...feeling for the city's skate-riders.

...vaguely irritated by the fact that Calypso was full of Tournament of the Minds parents all weekend. Editors need their coffee and they need it fast!

...still entertained by the vigour of campus life. We wouldn't want it any other way.



...still cheerin' for ANU student Patrick Johnson. He might not have gone all that well in the Athletics Championships, but we know he's just saving himself for Athens. Go Pat!

Back to Uni for the Libs

It appears that the high research standards insisted on by those who doctor official documents for the lacklustre federal Minister for Education do not apply to official records of meeting of the Prime Minister, or other matters of cooked-up "context" - the demise of bulk-billing, the cock-up in defence spending, the grubby Pacific refugee bribery program, Manildra, Tampa, SIEV-X and kids overboard.

Oh, and weapons of mass destruction. Those flames you see are the pants of the entire Howard frontbench going up in smoke. This government does not tell the truth.

Kindest regards

Peter Woodforde

Trust us: we wouldn't write like Jago

Both letters by Arnold Jago in the July issue have prompted me to write this, my first letter to Woroni, and to hope you are flooded with enough similar responses that you don't need it. I could almost believe that Jago's letters were planted by Woroni staff purely to provoke readers.

Mr Jago perceives a lack of political support for the "traditional family where Dad earns the wage and the children get Mum's undivided attention". I suppose that's the danger of a democracy, politicians may occasionally represent the interests of the population. Even if they supported Jago's views, do politicians really have that much influence over the role division in Australian families? Should they? Whether the "traditional family" is the only moral lifestyle or not, surely we can take responsibility for ourselves? I don't attribute my life choices to the feminists and greenies, so why do you, Jago? And the other thing...

Mr Jago is concerned with the prevalence of spirituality or "searching for meaning", as opposed to religion or "finding meaning" (and finding it in God). He seems to believe that people need the rewards and obligations of religion to make them behave. I disagree. A lot of people can fulfil their obligations to society without believing in consequences after death. Some of the nicest people I know do not believe in God. Whether they are neglecting any duty to God is surely not for us (meaning Jago) to decide. So what is he afraid of? Perhaps this: that if people search for meaning outside of God, they might find it there.

Heather Taplin

More Prunty and Krupinski?

Nick Tedeschi "all hail prunty," Woroni 7 asks, "How ridiculously intelligent is Chris Prunty?" While Dom Krupinski says, "Up yours, Punty". I'm confused, and not just by Dom's inability to meet a deadline or spell. Who is one to believe about this Chris Prunty character? University has taught me you don't get good marks by thinking for yourself (or disagreeing with your pol sci tutors) so I can't form an opinion. Woroni, help me. Is Chris Prunty really the spawn of Satan or his he the voice of a generation? Dom is certainly not, he's just a cock-head.

Ken Park

Krupinski fires back!

Shut up, Prunty. I know that's you.

Dom Krupinski

Not so liberal, eh

Dear Woroni,

Anthony Williamson (...as do the Young Liberals, Woroni 7) states a belief in freedom of association and freedom of choice. For Conservatives, like Anthony, however, freedom has very little to do with their political ideology. Conservatives deny people the freedom to do as they please, even so long as they don't harm others, hence their policies on legalisation of marijuana, prostitution and voluntary euthanasia. Conservatives are also quite happy to undermine individuals' economic freedom so long as it serves their political interests. The inability of the Howard government, which presumably, Anthony supports, to exercise any spending restraint has greatly limited the economic freedom of all Australians. We are left carrying the burden of Big Government while the Coalition goes about empire-building at the taxpayer's expense.

Furthermore, Anthony, merely dropping "CFMEU", "AMWU" and the "ACTU" into your articles and bagging the Greens for their Communism does not constitute reasoned, well researched or logical argument. Fun as it is, your time would be far better spent centring your arguments around individual liberty, personal responsibility, limited government and voluntary and peaceful exchange.

Thank you,

Warren E. Buffett

Just a quick reminder that
Letters to the Editor should be sent
to
woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au
A big thank you to everyone who
contributes to campus debate!

Footnotes for Dr Jago

Dear Sir/Madam

Should marijuana be legalised for treating AIDS, uncontrolled pain?

Recent research reveals "striking evidence that cannabis is bad for mental health, causing higher rates of depression and anxiety." (1) A 15-year follow-up of 50,000 Swedish teenagers, found in those having used marijuana 50 or more times a 600 percent higher incidence of schizophrenia. (2) Analysis of these cases showed that marijuana use triggered the schizophrenia -- not vice versa. (3)

US Drug Enforcement Agency evidence shows that, "Marijuana can affect the immune system, impairing the ability of T-cells to fight infection." People with immune systems already impaired by HIV are recommended to avoid marijuana use. (4)

Cannabis has been shown to be no better for pain than codeine and has more side-effects. (5)

You work it out.

(1) Patton, BMJ, 325 (2002): 1195-1198

(2) Andreasson, Lancet, (1987) 2: 1483-1486

(3) BMJ, Zammit, 325 (2002): 1199-1201

(4) Zhu, Journal of Immunology, 165, (2000): 373-380

(5) Campbell, BMJ, 323 (2001): 13-16

Yours sincerely,

Arnold Jago

(Ed: While some question the authenticity of Dr Jago's regular letters it would appear that he has been writing similar letters to student magazines, Catholic papers and others since well before most current ANU students were born. He is, we are quite certain, very much real. Woroni continues to welcome all contributions to campus debate.)

Conservato Liberato

Dear Woroni,

I was shocked and horrified to read that the (Conservative) Charlie's Angels Ticket has as one of its key policies the idea of forcing the sale of coffee in the Union for one dollar. Don't these

ostensibly liberals, realise that this is just another unwarranted intervention in the market? Prices for coffee, or any other commodity, reflect consumer and producer preferences for said commodity. The pricing mechanism is the most effective way customers and businesses communicate with one another. When a government, or an ill-informed group of Liberal-hacks, mess with this mechanism they presume they know best, thus reducing market participant's freedom.

Who would pay for this subsidised coffee is another question that has yet to be answered. Ironically, the Libs would probably spend GSF revenue on the coffee subsidy. This raises the question of; if one doesn't drink coffee then why should one be forced to subsidise the consumption of others?

Charlie's Angels are well intentioned, but have little understanding of how the market works and the damage done by intervention. This ignorance is undesirable but forgivable, what is unforgivable is that the Libs value individual freedom so little that they won't even give us a choice.

Ayn Rand

Quick Reminder from Mocca

Dear Woroni,

Just a very quick reminder for all readers to please fill out our 20 Second Higher Education survey and sign the online petition demanding there be no Fee increases for students at the ANU. Both are posted on our new website: sa.anu.edu.au

Thanks,
Mocca
President,
ANU Students' Association

All published letters are strictly the opinion of the authors and in no way reflect the opinions of Woroni or the ANU SA. To submit a letter, please email woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au. It's that easy.....anyone can join in the fun.

Letters

ANU creates a Quality Office

By Nikki McPherson

Ever felt that ANU rhetoric doesn't match the reality of everyday life at uni? The establishment of the new Quality Enhancement and Statistical Services Office, pithily known as QESS, may be your answer.

This office, falling under the Education portfolio of Deputy Vice Chancellor Malcolm Gillies, has the aim of preparing the university for its audit of quality processes, an audit that all Australian universities must undertake.

Professor Marie Carol of QESS, stated that a main aim is to ensure that ANU policies are implemented not only uniformly but also in the ways in which they were meant to be implemented.

Students' Association President, Steve Michelson said that the establishment of this office is "terrific", and hopes that it will result in "...better ways to evaluate the quality of (ANU) teaching." Professor Carol, whilst stating that the office cannot actively change policy, assessing how students feel about the implementation of policies will be a priority.

The audit of the university will include four key areas, the approach to quality enhancement across all areas, how this approach is deployed, an evaluation of the approach, and areas and plans for improvement. Professor Carol stated that while the first two areas do not generally pose any difficulties, it is the later two which tend to be more problematic, and that QESS will focus on.

The Three Way Race to Union Board Chair

By Petar Milinkovic

By the time this issue of Woroni has gone to print, the new ANU Student Union Board will have already been decided, but if you missed all the posters and leaflets and somehow managed to avoid all the candidates outside the refectory, the tickets in this year's election were Diversity Counts, Delivering More, and Charlie's Angels.

Anila Shaikh, from Diversity Counts, said her ticket was about giving students from all backgrounds equal representation on the board. "[the] ANU should represent different cultures more within the student union and basic things like having cultural events...the ANU does an international night but it's hosted at UC". Although not a candidate, ANU student Vanessa Rashidi agrees "Australia's a multicultural society [and] so is uni". Diversity Counts also promised to make a wider range of foods that cater for more cultures available in the refectory.

More food choices was also high on the agenda for Delivering More, which promised "no perks, no gimmicks, no liberal hacks, just diverse and affordable food in a clean and green building". Number one candidate for Delivering More, Peter Graham, says Delivering more is all about student unionism and seeing that students GSF money is put to good use. "We're running because we don't believe in perks of student politicians...we want to keep delivering more to the students...[and] we don't believe in payment for student

politicians". While more student representation was also on their agenda, Charlie's Angel's however, took a more practical approach to the campaign, promising an ANU charge card, \$1 coffees, and a 7.5 metre big screen projector with Foxtel in the uni bar. Anthony Williamson, who campaigned for Charlie's Angels said "we just have physical, tangible things that we will deliver. This way we can be held accountable".

Elise Parham, one of Charlie's Angels candidates said the Charlie's Angels also differed from the other tickets because of a greater female involvement. "We're all girls except for our post graduate student. It's a bit of a different thing, a bit of an exciting thing really".

Although many promises were made throughout the campaign, more food choices and a refectory refurbishment featured highly on the agendas of all the tickets. While it remains to be seen if these promises are delivered. ANU student Mardi Templeton says that regardless of who wins, "if they get in, they should do what they say they can do". The union board is responsible for the running of the union building, which includes the uni bar and refectory, and is different to the students association which deals more with advocacy of students rights.

Plagiarism Targeted by Uni Admin

Ever cheated? Well, you won't be able to anymore with the Academic Honesty and Plagiarism document that has recently passed ANU Education Committee and is working its way through the beurocracy to the realms of policy.

The Code is "just and fair" according to David Kelly, who notes that there will be a new appeal procedure for part assessment that will be guaranteed review within 14 days.

The concerns that according to the Students' Association were not addressed were those of protecting unintentional plagerists. Basically the SA believed that there needed to be support and advice to students on the boundaries of plagerism to ensure that students were not punished for crimes they did not know they were committing.

For serious cases, the new policy allows for a central register to be kept about cases of plagerism. This is designed to catch people who perpetuate such practices repetitively.

Dave Kelly, the Vice President of the Association, says that he is eager to hear from students who have an opinion on these issues. He can be contacted on sa.education@student.anu.edu.au.

Union Board Results

Diversity Counts swept the board in the Union elections. Their candidates Kelvin Yang and Anila Shaikh won the undergraduate positions while Andrew Park won the post grad position. Peter Graham from Delivering More won the remaining undergraduate position. It's not a long bow to draw to say that Nicholas Oettinger will be the next Union Chair.

Conflict of Interest or Conflict of Politics?

By Petar Milinkovic

Due to an unauthorised use of ANU student union funds, Joseph Crichton, deputy chair of the Union Board, was recently removed from his position. Ms Erika Belmar, current chair of the union board, said Mr Crichton was sacked from the board after handing over a cheque for \$800 to a Fenner Hall play production of which he was a member of the cast, without prior approval from the union board.

While ANU clubs and societies can request money from the board to help fund events such as BBQ's, Ms Belmar said a request for "anything over \$200" is first discussed with the other directors

or put "on the agendas for the meetings". However in this case, the "acting chair took it upon himself to endorse someone's request and signed an agreement which saw the union handing over a cheque for \$800 to the Fenner Hall production, the problem with that being that he signed it as acting chair, but he's also a member of the cast and crew of that production... so it was essentially a matter of a conflict of interest".

Ms Belmar was quick to point out that clubs and societies that have a member on the board are not excluded from union funding, but there are certain procedures that need to be followed. "What's previously happened is if there's a

request from someone and you're a member [of the board and the club and society making the request]... you get up and you say yes I'm a member of that club and then you've disclosed you're interest, [and] perhaps you won't vote on the issue" she said.

While not wanting to go into any details regarding his disqualification for fear of potential legal repercussions, Mr Crichton said that his "attempts at actually delivering to student groups were quickly thwarted", saying "the Union Board is obsessed with appearances and bottom-lines and seems completely disinterested with the student body. The pathetic resources that the Board sets aside

for student services are simply not promoted, and when they go unused, the Board gleefully absorbs them back into its profits at the end of the year...sadly I do not share the same ideals as those board members who survive me". He also apologised for "not being able to deliver more" to the students that elected him and said that any claims the Board had against him we're "unjustified".

While the vacancy left by his sacking will not be filled until after the Union Board elections have taken place, Mr Crichton said "it's a sorry day when the most progressive group that ANU students are offered to represent them are Labour Right and friends".

Overcrowding on the Increase

Felt like there are more and more people in your lectures from year to year? Figures released by the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee show that it's not just your imagination. Since the Howard government attained office class sizes have increased by 31.3%.

The Hon Jenny Macklin, Shadow Minister for Employment, Education & Training called the increases 'staggering'. She says that it is another sign that the Liberal government has 'neglected' universities.

Fortunately for the students at the ANU, our university is not the worst scenario. While the ACT has had a 24.4% increase in class sizes, the worst university affected is the Australian Catholic University with a 39.3% change. Central Queensland University is the worst affected nationally with a 80.4% and Charles Sturt University follows with a 70.1% increase.

Dean of Students' Awards 2003

Nominations have opened for the 2003 Dean of Students Awards. The awards were established by the Council of the University to commend outstanding contributions to the life of the University. There are two awards to nominate for. One is for an undergraduate student or a group of undergraduate students. The second is for a postgraduate student or a group of postgraduate students. Students may be nominated more than once as an individual or part of a group.

Examples of outstanding contributions include mentoring first year students, tutoring, leadership in ANU clubs and societies, participation in student political leadership and organising and participating in activities in University halls and colleges. Successful candidates will be up for a \$250 cash prize and an official University certificate signed by the Vice-Chancellor.

If this sounds anything like you and you have any time to spare, pop over to the Dean of Students' Office in the Pauline Griffin Building, or email Dean.Students@anu.edu.au. Nominations close October 10, 2003.

Best Joke Tickets of All Time

Bringing life into the often too serious world of student politics, joke tickets have enchanted the student electorate at the ANU for years. From the completely wacky to the almost serious, a variety of colourful individuals have put themselves before voters trying to make the election a whole damn lot funnier. Woroni has compiled a list of the top nine joke tickets in recent years.

Number 9: Turbo

Duncan Harrod was only joking when he formed this ticket out of bridge lounge volunteers, but this time, he's serious.....

Number 8: Beefcake

Roslyn Dundas (MLA) attempted to win Woroni by tacking onto the Southpark craze in 1998. Unlucky for her, she lost, but lucky for her, Jason Woods, her then boyfriend, invented a Union publication called 'Babelfish' for her to edit. Sadly, the publication did not take off beyond her term as editor.



Roslyn Dundas, MLA

Number 7: Ticket X

Although not technically a joke ticket, the effect on the electorate was similar to one. The Presidential candidate for this ticket was Roslyn Dundas. Although ANU students thought only enough of her to award her the third highest vote, she was later elected to become a Member of the Legislative Assembly by the residents of Ginninderra.

Number 6: Students 4 Breakers

When the mediocre television drama of Breakers was finally dropped by the network stations, Alastair Lawrie decided that the Students' Association should turn its focus towards getting it reinstated. Election promises included converting Union Court into a gigantic fake beach. The reason why this ticket scores so badly is that Mr Lawrie decided to actually poll and was elected. Only a half-hearted joke it seems.

Number 5: The Luke Party Strikes Back

In an attempt to keep alight the fire of student wackiness, the Luke Party in the dying days of the Challenge Club, put through another challenge to the SA elite with the Luke Party Strikes Back ticket. Based on the sequel to Star Wars, this ticket focused on presenting zany electoral rhetoric in Woroni rather than a serious attempt at foiling the efforts of more serious election candidates.

Number 4: The Democrats

Need I say more? Run by Jason Woods, a long term university student who after nine years left the Higher Education Sector without a degree to his name, this ticket was repeated throughout the nineties. Jason Woods who was branded a 'seasoned political campaigner' by a Federal Senate Committee member, brought some credence to this otherwise dismal election attempt. Although voters rejected Mr Woods for a role in the Students' Association in 1999, they subsequently elected him to the Union Board where he later became the Chair.

Number 3: Rack off Lefty Scum

Clearly targeted at a certain portion of the electorate, this ticket was run by Steven Martyn, a cowboy hat wearing Science student who had a disproportionately large impact on the ANU in his brief time here. Unfortunately for Mr Martyn, charges pending in Queensland led to his arrest and subsequent conviction over offences related to drug trafficking. His more junior candidate, Ben Morton, had a more successful career in the Liberal Party with pre-selection in the NSW election before crushing defeat.

Number 2: Meet Your Rulers

Classic ANU comedy duo Mat Kenneally and Mark Thomson decided that it was time to show up the student politicians with this ironically named ticket in the 2000 elections. The campaign briefly targeted the major tickets before turning its bitter focus towards Ticket X. For over a month pictures of chickens and tasteless Nazi references dominated the walls of the Copland precinct and tragically no Meet Your Rulers candidates were subsequently elected. Notably Mr Kenneally and Mr Thomson managed to register a record number of National Union of Student Conference candidates, which led to a delay in the voting and an increased fee for the Association.

Number 1: The Luke Party

Based on the enigmatic leaders of the now defunct Challenge Club, the Luke Party was themed on Star Wars. Candidate statements focused on trying to get across the message of the dark side of the force rather than presenting coherent reasons for election. The greatest achievement of this ticket was the registration of over 100 SA Treasurer candidates, which led to a lengthy delay in counting and a change in the nomination rules. Remarkably, Luke De Saily was elected as a General Representative and used his time in office to further remind the Association that it took itself too seriously.

Whether zany attempts at self-promotion or a tacit attempt at election, joke tickets have been and remain a good way of reminding student politicians of the lighter side of university life. Other tickets may come and go but hopefully some at least will drag a laugh out of the inundated voting student.

Compiled by Maciej Wasilewicz

TRIPLE BARREL!

With student elections fast approaching, the debate continues: what role should student activism have at the ANU?

Where does Student Activism have a place at the ANU?

Student activism does have a place at the Australian National University. As one of only two Universities in Australia governed by Federal as opposed to State legislation (not to mention the fact that we are literally within kilometres of the places in which relevant decisions are actually made), it is right that student activism exist on our campus.

It is a well-known fact that during the Vietnam War, ANU students took en masse to the streets to make clear their opposition to Australia's action abroad. More recently in 1998, students brought important attention to the Howard Government's attempts to implement Voluntary Student

Unionism (VSU) and, in doing so, attempt to undermine student representation across the country. This year, the release of the latest Higher Education package has also seen students speak out against higher fees, greater debt and other adverse effects that could arise if the Senate approves the current package.

On the other side of the spectrum, and as much as they will not appreciate me saying it, the more conservative student organisations on campus also make up an important element of the student activist movement at the ANU. Like their opponents, these opinions also play an important role in educating our peers about many important issues such as the Higher Education debate and proposed VSU legislation. This comes in light of my belief that students deserve to have

two sides of the story so that they are able to make the most informed decision possible. Isn't that why we have political parties in the first place?

But while student activism has a place for these reasons, I would submit that student activism does not play a worthwhile role in public forums of the Students' Association such as our General Meetings. Such meetings are not only the public face of this Association but also of student politics (which obviously includes student activists). As a result, those individuals who bring activism and consequent disruption to these forums only do themselves – and their worthwhile organisations – a disservice. Why? Because while our political differences play an important role in keeping each other accountable, our meetings should not be occasions for incestuous student political shitfights to take place. Instead, they should be used as opportunities to discuss important issues affecting students with students. ANU Undergraduates are generally not, and should not, be interested in political pointscoring – let's leave this for election week (taking place this year from 8 –11 September) if we have to have it at all.

I believe we must stop for a moment and look at the future of student activism on our campus. I for one believe student activism, no matter what its political source, is becoming increasingly out of touch with its constituency. Why? Because four out of five students on this campus now partake in paid employment and the traditional methods of activism (whether it be protests, political discussions over a beer or information sessions) are no longer viable in today's student culture. The style and activities associated with student activism must change in order to survive. Those leading these movements must be progressive in their approach and look to new ways to engage students – if they do not, the future for activism in our very national campus is looking increasingly bleak.

Steve "Mocca" Michelson is the President of the ANU Student's association.



The essential role of activism

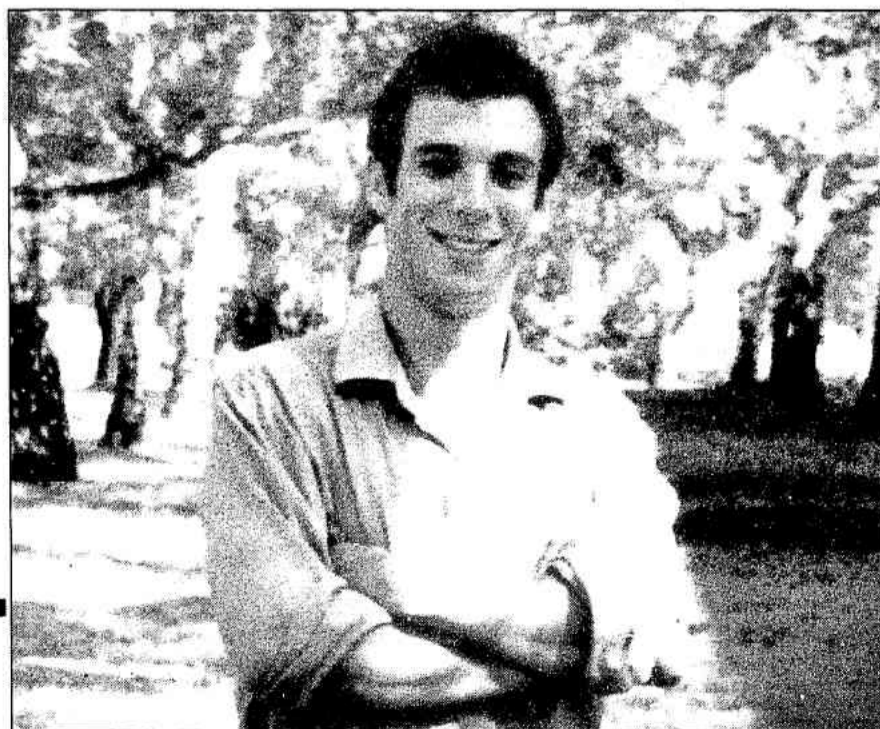
Activism has a crucial role in the Students' Association and university life, through mobilising layers of students to involve themselves in campaigns pertinent to students. Opponents of this approach argue that students are best served by representatives who will "lobby" politicians to achieve student aims. Activists recognise that often students are not listened to, and that sometimes the "proper channel" is not the most effective route.

For this reason, student activists are needed in all aspects of a university. At the ANU, this can be in the form of participation in a collective, as a member of the SRC, as a member of the SA executive or as a member of clubs and societies, to name but a few areas of university life.

If we define an activist as one who is motivated by issues and concerns to the extent that they are willing to do something about them; then we can see that people of this nature are vital to the university.

Activism differs from lobbying because we seek to involve students, rather than merely purport to represent them. More blatant displays of discontent are often needed to push an issue in addition to the lobbying tactics pursued by the Students' Association through its current "independent" executive. Activists encourage broad-based movements with mass involvement to demonstrate the extent of the effects of policy issues, whether they originate from governments or the University itself. Since the aim of activism is to create such a movement, it is crucial that activists play a prominent role in the Students' Association.

The role of meetings of the Students' Association is to hear the concerns of students at the ANU. These concerns may include administrative matters; for example, parking and the use of the General Services Fee. They can also be activist issues, such as



Opinion

the danger facing Universities in the face of reforms to Higher Education, or the political principle of not allowing a collective to run an election campaign based on the claim that they are independent. What may appear to some as a point-scoring exercise may be an important political principle to others.

It is vitally important that activist concerns are voiced during meetings of the Students' Association. Other students, particularly the SA executive, must be aware of the campaigns that activists on this campus are involved in. Where this happens, meetings can form an educative role in allowing other students to find out the extent and nature of activist campaigns. People with an interest in the functions of the SA (demonstrated by their willingness to attend the meetings) may also have an interest in the activities of the collectives and other activists involved in the SA. They may also be keen on becoming involved in a collective.

The collectives are then able to stimulate interest in the concerns that are currently affecting their collective and the student body as a whole. Meetings of the SA provide an essential focal point for these issues.

It has been said that the role of activists is to unite with other activists. In this sense, we are constantly seeking to mobilise others in campaigns, particularly those affecting students. Being a part of an activist movement can be immensely rewarding and fulfilling. The sense of achievement that can occur after a victory is indescribable, and knowing that you've played a part in creating social or policy change is quite awesome, particularly to a uni student. If you would like to be a part of this, contact Andrew Shelley (he's your Education Officer) at sa.education@anu.edu.au.

Louise Crossman is a general representative candidate running on the activist ticket "ER."

Correction

In Woroni Issue 6, Woroni incorrectly attributed the article titled "What are we going to do about this" to Benjo. The article was actually written by Tanya McConvell. Woroni apologises for this error.

What's the problem, Mocca?

In response to President Steve 'Mocca' Michelson's continual attacks upon political activists, partisan politics and political parties: what is the problem, Mocca?

To get things straight, Mocca represents the 'Indies' on this campus. The 'Indies' are different from the political groups on campus because they are not bound by a programmatic set of beliefs. Where as the Labor Students Club (LSC) and Left Labor Club (Lefties) are organized around support for Social Justice and the principals of collective activism, and the Liberal Students Club (Libs) are organized around a hatred of the lower classes (i.e. you and me), the 'Indies' are organized around electoral ability and popularity.

Every year at election time on campus the Indies approach all the popular students in the colleges regardless of political beliefs or affiliations and promise a nice addition to their resume. Because the 'Indies' are such a loose collection of apolitical students, the promises that they make at every election are nothing but populism and social candy. And like all social candy, while it may taste sweet, it has no nutritional or political value. Proof of this can be seen by the recurrence year after year of the same "exciting" and "vibrant" policies. You'd think after promising something for more than five years that they would deliver.

Indeed, because the 'Indies' are such a loose collection of apolitical populists, while there is a continuation of promises, there is no continuation of policy from year to year. The 'Indies' are one term bandits.

Further, not only do the 'Indies' select their candidates simply through their populism and the amount of votes they will attract, the 'Indies' select their presidential candidate by auctioning it off to whoever contributes the most to their campaign fund. Thereby sidestepping any question of competence or merit. The going rate is about \$1000 dollars, if you're interested.

The much derided political activists on the other hand are selected on merit and competency. And while it is true that last year the Left



Labor club sold out on their much-vaunted principles in a vainglorious grab for power by running with the 'Indies', on the balance of it, political activists do not indulge in the backroom wheeling and dealing that the 'Indies' criticize in public and practice in private. Our President complains about the lack of involvement of students in the running of the SA, yet with the same breath decries political activists as "interfering with the normal running of the association".

The choice to become involved in the Students Association is a political decision. Therefore everybody that involves themselves for reasons other than their resume is by definition a political activist. The students that are involved in the Environment collective made a political decision to join. The students involved with the Women's collective are there because that is where their politics tells them they can make changes.

Yet our President doesn't complain about those students. Only the students that are active in the Education Collective. Why, you ask? Because it is this group that continually expects the SA to help educate, organize and activate students. That is the goal of a political activist. Not to occupy a building or come up with an amusing chant, but to educate students about the Howard governments attack on higher education, to organize them into a coherent group and to activate them so that they will be effective in their attempts to lobby government.

It is the utter, abject failure of the 'Indies' to involve themselves in this debate that is causing the lack of interest in student politics. While it is

hard to have a political debate over a car park, it is easy to do it over the attack on our education that is the Nelson review.

While the Student's Association should remain apolitical and not be biased towards either side of the political spectrum, this does not mean that it should remove itself from the debate all together. The Student's Association is supposed to be a place for advocacy of student issues. To inform students not only of the services it provides but also the issues that will affect students. The lack of involvement by the SA means that this task devolves to political activists, who have neither the resources nor the ability to get their message out effectively. This produces great frustration amongst activists, who quite naturally take it out on the man who they see as not addressing their issues.

As much as you complain about them, Activists are students who should be represented.

Finally, two things.

- 1) As long as the 'Indies' are the 800lb gorilla in campus politics, the ANU will remain apathetic and underrepresented.
- 2) Mocca's problem is not with the beliefs of the activists, but with their attempts to hold him accountable.

Duncan Harrod is the presidential candidate for Students First and is the President of the Labor Students Club (LSC).

Opinion

Vote For Me

Vote For Me

Woroni brings you the guide to the 2003 ANU Students Association Elections. This is your opportunity to see and hear this year's crop of activists, anarchists and anti-Christ's go at it in a gruesome orgy of battered ego and shattered dreams. Sit back and enjoy the spectacle of your student elections. Don't forget to vote!

Vote For Me

Wannabemocca?

Presidential Candidates

The President of the Students Association is paid \$13,300 a year to look after the interests of all ANU students. It is a big job and demands almost total commitment from its holder. This is one student political position which isn't for the faint of heart or the weak of mind!

Duncan Harrod

Students First

My name is Duncan Harrod. I believe I believe that students must be made aware of the services (particularly advocacy and welfare) that the SA provides. The SA must be about more than just getting bands to the bar (but our social officer will), it has to be about the students. I am standing because I believe the SA must get back to providing the services that our GSF pays for. The SA must focus on three things student welfare, student advocacy and social events. For information on our policies please contact me at ANUSTUDENTSFIRST@hotmail.com



Max Jeganathan

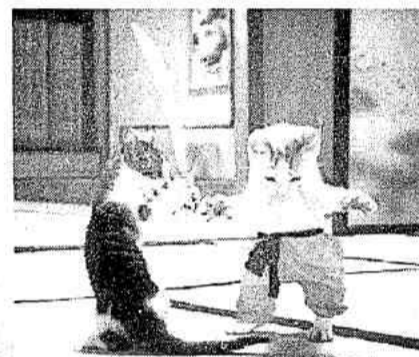
Momentum Nexus

As ANUSA President, my promise is to represent a diverse and dynamic range of student interests passionately, enthusiastically and ethically. From accommodation to education, from social events to Clubs & Societies, from security to parking, I am committed to representing ALL of you. I envision an enriching and enjoyable university experience for everyone whatever your political views, interests, field of study or background may be. During election week, you have the opportunity to make that vision a reality.....

...So Vote Momentum nexus number one - Moving for Students!!!

Stephen Hally-Burton

Unesco



Mat Keneally

I

I'm running for I; after losing pre-selection for the Left I decided to abolish my strong ideological objection to this vowel, and I've concluded that my proposal to spend the SA budget on tanks and little red flags/books was misguided. So why should you choose 'I'? Lets start by talking about 'me' as while 'I' isn't entirely about 'me' it mostly is. How did my political career start? It began when I finished second in the Cootamundra regional finals of Lions public speaking for my talk on multiculturalism, and how I wanted to be a Ballerina. [continued at Vice President]



Vice-President Candidates



Kathryn Cooper

Momentum Nexus

Not fortunate enough to have been born with a silver spoon in my mouth, I have always been committed to equity in education. After 3 years at the ANU, I genuinely believe in independent representation for all students. 2004 will be an important year for ANU and I promise to deliver action on every issue that may arise. As ANUSA Vice-President with responsibility for education, I look forward to concentrating on the problems that affect students on a daily basis including the increasing struggle of many to combine study and work. VOTE 1 MOMENTUM NEXUS - MOVING FOR STUDENTS

Grace Bryant

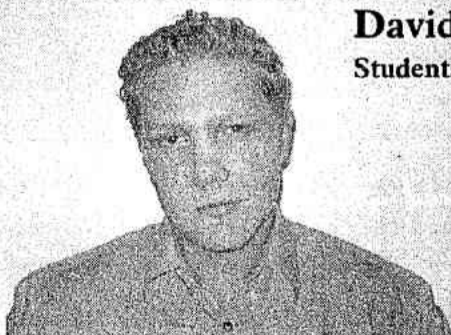
Unesco



Emily Byrne

I

[I must continue my President's statement; he claims he's worth more than 100 words] In 1996 I joined the United Nations Youth Association, through which I met a diverse range of grammar children from all over the country, and made an invaluable contribution to the world of role-playing. I then moved into youth parliament and experienced the joy of harmless liberal values and drafting non-partisan, youth-based, non-binding legislation whilst dreaming of picking up other sad nerds. At university I have contributed to many societies, not just the Debating Society (where I actually picked up other sad nerds). Vote for 'me'.



David Sykes

Students First



Some candidates did not submit candidate statements. For those candidates without statements *Woroni* has occasionally taken the liberty of inserting pictures. For example, David Sykes from the *Students First* ticket is accompanied by kittens. We love kittens

General Secretary Candidates

Woroni handy hint #17: Gen Sec is the person who makes it all happen behind the scenes. To be feared...



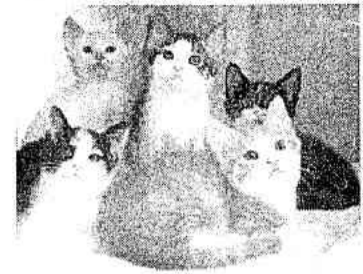
Anna "Joy" Hoffman

Momentum Nexus

When I was first approached about running for Gen Sec I was terrified at the thought of the responsibility of representing an entire student population, especially one as dynamic and diverse as the ANU. I've found however that raw fear is a terrific motivator for giving this position everything I have. Raw fear, and the opportunity to work with an amazing bunch of people to improve the lot of all students. This isn't a resume builder, I like being a cashier attendant, but because I think doing this stuff makes a difference, I'm having a go. VOTE ONE MOMENTUM NEXUS - Moving for Students!

Rowan Patterson

Unesco



Dom Cookman

I

So the President thinks he's worth two candidate statements, well fuck him. I'm not some worthless schmuck like the VP, I've run as Gen-rep on five different tickets in two years. Nor am I just the over-ambitious hack whose been channeled into Gen-sec so that "I" can use daddy's money to fund their lecture leaflet campaign. I'm a well-connected political operative - I deserve two candidate statements too. Mark my words; I'll be an MLA someday whether it's with the Democrats, Greens, or the Gunghalin Equality Party. Dammit, I'll be like [redacted] and sleep my way to the middle.



Ryan Hamilton

Students First

This Election is about one thing, STUDENT SERVICES. If Elected, I will ensure adequate representation for ANU Students on issues such as the Higher education reform but this WILL NOT be my focus, that role is reserved for improving the services that we enjoy here at ANU. Unlike our "independent" opponents, I am not campaigning for an addition to my CV; I am campaigning to improve the student environment that you and I study in. So, if you want your student leaders to truly stand up for your core interests, VOTE ONE - RYAN HAMILTON AND STUDENTS FIRST.



Treasurer Candidates

Jiann Yuh Ong

Momentum

G'day mates of the ANU. My name is Jiann Yuh Ong and I am currently in my 2nd year of Actuarial Studies. Having served as the Treasurer of the International Students' Society of the ANU (ISSANU) for almost a year now, I believe that I can use my experiences to help the SA use the money entrusted to us in a way that will maximise benefits to students and promote unity among students from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Vote Momentum Nexus number one for an experience you won't forget!



Jeremy Farrell

I

I do not find my fellow candidates scary, they just like bed sheets (lots), and they only burn crosses when the college heating system breaks down. Also I was not appointed to the position of treasurer because of a shady deal struck between my organization and "I", that provided my organization with \$5000 extra to spend on Ice Skating. We in no way elicited a promise from "I" to help us stack an SGM to appropriate student funds. I am just a guy who can count to ten, and wants to count to ten for you and "I".



Jimmy Stewart

Unesco



Social Officer Candidates

Mark Kader

I

I've been kicked out of Johns, Burgmann, and Bruce Hall making me uniquely qualified to be social officer. I know exactly what a good time is, and there and thereabouts where the line is. In terms of security I know where all the holes in the fence are and me and the Johns College student militia will guard them ruthlessly. I promise to make Sullivan's Creek flow with beer, and I promise one...no, three swimming pools, an Ice-Skating rink, a beer fountain, and caviar on DAILY BBQs. You know "I" can do anything, just look at the Woroni scavenger hunt photos.



Erika Belmar

Students First

Hi my name is Erika Belmar and I'm a fourth year Asian studies/ Law student. I want to be your social officer because I think that ANU needs to have a revamped social life. I am currently chair of the ANU Union Board and I was personally responsible for the Uni Bar Refurbishment. Now that the bar has been fixed up we need to have some kickarse events that take advantage of the bar. We need to have more events like this years opening with Machine Gun Fellatio.



Mathew "Shorty" Short

Momentum



ANUSA Departments

Sexuality Officer

David Mills

Collective Endorsed

How do you write a candidate statement for a position that you're running unopposed in for the second time in a row? I wouldn't be running again if someone from our wonderful and active collective had been interested - maybe all my whingeing about the job put people off a bit. I'll continue to work hard for queer students on campus - and I'll keep telling homophobes to fuck off. You can't vote for me - but make sure you vote to protect your collectives.



Environment Officer

Education Officer

Corri McKenzie

Collective Endorsed

The issues facing higher education in the coming year are unparalleled - increased HECS, partial deregulation of fees, attacks on student unionism, the list goes on for as long as you've got to listen. The Education Department has been active this year in fighting the proposed changes, and will continue to fight to save higher education. Now, more than ever, is it essential that departments and collectives have committed activists working towards these ends. Collective endorsed candidates for the departments have demonstrated their commitment to activism on essential issues that affect students. Vote for the collective endorsed candidates, and ensure that...LIMIT



Alexander Tietge
Collective Endorsed

Mat Keneally

I
Although this ticket may seem like the Labor Party, this is false. We were actually going to call the ticket, 'I can't believe it's not the Labor Party', but then we shortened it to 'I'. Just because this ticket contains Labor Party members does not mean our candidates are taking orders from our factional warlord, Colonel Knee Slapper III. We will vote independently of any such orders from the brave, wise, and noble Colonel. 'I' is about students; not about our individual, (or the good Colonel's) political futures. So remember - not the Labor Party, just tastes like it.



Women's Officer

Amanda Connell

Collective Endorsed

I am a feminist. I am proud to call myself a feminist. And I am running for Women's Officer with the hope that I can help break down some of the stereotypes that go with this title. One common stereotype of a feminist is that of the hairy, smelly, bitter man-hater. While I don't fit that bill, (in fact, I am about to get married!) I think I possess all the important attributes a Women's officer needs. I am approachable, friendly and someone that students can relate to. So let go of some preconceptions, and



Woroni Editor(s)

Jeremy Farrell

I
This ticket 'I' is a joke. We only ran for Woroni because they promised us a page, and the 100 word statements were not really long enough to hurt enough feelings. With regards to Woroni, I see a political party is running under the "The Awful Truth". These people would subject you to their pathetic political rants every issue if you vote them in to run YOUR student newspaper. So make sure you vote for an independent woroni ticket, as they contain people that actually want to write a student newspaper rather than wanting to rule the world: Colonel_Knee_Slapper@hotmail.com



The Adams - Adam Brodie-McKenzie and

Adam Hornsey

Independent

We are good. We are very good. That's why we should be Woroni editors next year. If we have convinced you already we're pleased but you are very gullible... unlike us who as editors of Woroni will be objective and independent with no affiliations... except for good editorship, humour, approachability and propaganda, which we believe we have shown this year as sub-editors of the two most popular sections of Woroni. As editors, we also wish to make Woroni less incestuous and more inclusive for all students, both in its readership and production. Anyone can get involved! Did we mention we...LIMIT



Robert Hardie
The Awful Truth

General Representative Candidates



Cat Wicks

Momentum Nexus

Expert croquet player, world champion horseshoe thrower, you name it I don't really do it, but I'll pretend if you like. I'm Cat Wicks and I'm running for General Representative. If you don't find me at Chifley Infoplace glued to a computer, just check Gods and Purple Pickle (I'm the one shaking from a caffeine overdose). As general representative I'm looking to represent the students and raise the issues that are important to you. Approach me to have a chat, I'll be more than happy to

listen and raise your ideas at student council. Vote one Momentum!



Nick Quinnell

Momentum Nexus

This is my third year at the ANU studying Arts/Law (no surprises) and it is also my third year living on campus, at Burton and Garran Hall. So why am I running for SA?

1. There are issues I feel strongly about, particularly examination times and weightings, which I would like to tackle without pressure to act within a political party or rigid ideology.
2. The SA's resources could be used to benefit a greater number of students than at present. So I urge you to get amongst it in 2004, make the most of your SA, and vote 1 MOMENTUM nexus! Moving for students!



Kevin Chi Pang, Ho

Momentum Nexus

My name is Kevin Chi Pang, Ho. This is my first year in ANU and I am doing a degree in Finance. As a member of the student body, I know that there are many issues which could be improved upon. As an international student, I share fellow students' concerns in such a diverse campus. As a General Representative, I hope to represent students from different countries on such issues and concerns and to bridge the gap between international and local students. VOTE MOMENTUM ONE!



Gavan Mackenzie

Momentum Nexus

Witty, charming, pragmatic, sophisticated and hopelessly vain...well, that's enough about me - ok, a little more. I think it would be beneficial to increase the awareness of the SA and what it does for you and there remains lots of potential for increased two-way communication between General Reps and the students. I place a lot of emphasis on the equity of decisions, the openness of procedures and the welfare of students. Also, greater integration of non-campus dwellers and those crazy college kids would be advantageous to all. You've read it before - "VOTE 1 MOMENTUM-NEXUS" (If not - at least vote).



Emily Byrne

I

In these dangerous times with actual campus crime rising 0.1%, and rumors about crime rising 200% it's time for a 'law and order' campaign. I promise to increase campus safety by building a fence that will inconvenience criminals. This fence will be almost 50 meters in length, difficult to climb, and annoying to walk around. In addition I will half the parking-spaces so criminals can't just drive in and park, but will be forced to park in Civic, and walk around the FENCE. Vote for me, because I had the guts to fabricate a crisis to have policies about.



Jeremy Farrell

I

Hi I'm another Liberal Angel (Oh fuck...we've all stuffed up now...they all know). What the hell, here's my policies. I'm a law student, and in my time I've seen a lot of UC students "transfer" to our elite campus. We don't know if the faculty is checking these people's academic transcripts, or likely criminal records to ensure their suitability for ANU study and social climate. So I think we need to build a barbed wire fence around law school, and set up a militia of Johns College Boys to remind these plebs that it isn't open season for UC transfers.



Lucy Stackpool

I

Recently I ran for *Charlie's Angels*, not the ticket associated with the Young Liberals but the one associated with the big budget action film about chicks that kick butt. I'm going to be that kind of student politician, don't underestimate my power to do backflips for you. As a fucking young Tory pratt...I mean angel, I support implanting high-tech charge cards on all students' foreheads so nobody has to carry around loose change. I also oppose lefties wasting student's money. The facial implant system will also assist our racial profiling project...I've said too much. Never underestimate the power of privilege.



Toby Halligan

I

I don't know what I'm doing! I just got really drunk one night and signed some forms. In the morning a man showed up with a hacksaw, claiming he was entitled to one of my kidneys, unless I wrote this statement. I don't remember much after that, he got me stoned, I wrote this, and then I woke up in a bathtub. I don't know what "I" is, I don't know where I have been, or what "I" stands for. All I know is that I forfeit all rights to my parking spot if I don't win. Vote for me...please...

Woroni Handy Hint #12: These guys are supposed to turn up to meetings, vote, be interested in student issues. Sometimes the elected candidates are hopeless - 'nough said.

Nic Bye

I

Hello I believe in things. For example I buy berkinstocks because they demonstrate both my superior fashion sense, and my commitment to good labour standards for our proletariat underlings. Like, I learnt in cultural studies that we need to do a lot of deconstructing to change the world. Like wymmyn cannot be liberated until woman is spelt wymmyn, cause like there's a 'men' in women, and that's like so non-ethical and oppressivist. I'm running for this position cause I am a feminist and my boyfriend told that this is the best way to liberate women on campus.

Trish Gray

ER

For those of you who don't know me (and why not?) I am the women's officer this year. I'd like to be a gen rep next year so that I can finish any tasks left over from my time in office and not dump them into the newcomer's lap. I would be an active support mechanism and information source for her during her time in office. That way she won't have to deal with starting projects again that I have already undertaken. Oh and vote for your collective endorsed candidate as department heads.

Alison Gurr

ER

Hey! I am a 2nd year Arts/Law student. My recent involvement with the Education Department has made me realise how important and how fragile our education system is. I want to encourage the Student's Association to focus on educational issues. In particular, I would like the SA to lobby for greater student representation on university councils and boards, decreased tutorial sizes and deregulation of student fees. In light of the recent proposed reforms to higher education, these are particularly pressing issues. After all, we're paying (or we pay...) heaps of money to be at uni - we deserve quality...LIMIT

Andrew Shelley

ER

I'm presently the Students' Association Education Officer and have had plenty of experience in the SA Education Department and as a former NUS delegate. Over the next year the Liberals intend to implement their higher education "reforms". These will include increasing HECS, privatising universities, cutting "unprofitable" courses and directly attacking staff and student representation. Accordingly, we need committed activists in the SA that are capable of engaging students in the fight against the Liberals. ER candidates are experienced and committed, include all present department heads (Education, Environment, Sexuality & Women's), and will provide an alternative to the politically bankrupt "Independents".

Ryan Hamilton

Students First

This Election is about one thing, STUDENT SERVICES. If Elected, I will ensure adequate representation for ANU Students on issues such as the Higher education reform but this WILL NOT be my focus, that role is reserved for improving the services that we enjoy here at ANU. Unlike our "independent" opponents, I am not campaigning for an addition to my CV; I am campaigning to improve the student environment that you and I study in. So, if you want your student leaders to truly stand up for your core interests, VOTE ONE - RYAN HAMILTON AND STUDENTS FIRST.

David Mills

ER

The Students' Association provides valuable services through its departments. These services would not exist if the government has its way with higher education. All of the candidates running on ER are active in your Students' Association, and ER is the only ticket with 4 of last years' department officers running as candidates. Vote to protect your departments!

Rachel Allen

ER

2nd year Arts/Law
SA election time is bound to highlight differences of opinion within the student body. However, wanting to maintain access to a decent tertiary education is surely something we can all agree on. Unfortunately the quality and accessibility of tertiary education is being threatened. The Government's proposed 'reforms', which include the deregulation of student fees and weakening student unions, will have a devastating effect on higher education. As an active member of the Education Department I have strongly opposed these 'reforms'. I believe that the SA needs to be composed of people who are prepared to actively oppose the attacks on...LIMIT

Katie Kirk

ER

As a Gen Rep, I would undertake to pursue the interests of students, largely by fighting the proposed changes to our higher education, and supporting compulsory student unionism. I am a current member of a residential student body, and an active member of Left Labor on campus. Active participation is essential as a Gen Rep - vote for activists on campus. Vote ER.

Kate Hegarty

ER

You don't want to have to pay 30% more for your degree - trust me, you'd rather voluntarily drink the metho at Southpac and spend the rest of the night convulsing outside the Calvary emergency wing, while the smackies from Barry Drive get preference, plus tips for washing the waiting room doors. Perhaps then you'd like to progress to the ANU "Health Service" for your checkup...whereby you go in with tonsillitis but are told you have Chlamydia, Syphilis AND Lymphatic cancer - before Delta made it cool. While this is good for hoodwinking lecturers with medical certificates, let's face it: our university...LIMIT

Simon Chincock

ER

Hi, my name's Simon and I hate small-minded Liberal scum. Next year it will be crucial to have a Students' Association that is focussed on the fight against Nelson and Howard's higher education "reforms" which promise fee increases, course cuts and attacks on student unions. ER candidates will strive to involve students in the SA and in opposing these "reforms", because when we work together we can defeat the powers of darkness. Vote for ER - don't subject students to yet another year of the hapless "Independents" running your SA, through their latest incarnation "Momentum".

Albert Eichholzer

Students First

My name is Albert Eichholzer, and I'm a 2nd year student studying Arts and Commerce. I'm running as a general representative for the Student Association because I want to see the SA communicate more effectively with the students they represent. Talking to friends of mine I find that people don't know about many of the services that the SA runs for them. If students don't know about the services provided and who runs them, then how can they use them to best effect? Its time for the SA to work with the students.

Matt Moorhead

Students First

I want to be elected to the SA as part of team that's dedicated to improving student services. It is important that during this critical time in the history of Australian universities, we are represented by an SA that fully understands the issues of the Nelson Review and is dedicated to fighting it. And no VSU!

Daniel Malouf

Students First

Hi, I'm Dan. I'm a local first year boy studying Arts and a bit of Law here at the ANU. I love my music, I love my sport and my studies. I'm not a political person, but I wish to run as a Gen Rep. That we are all students here at the ANU shows that we all recognise the importance of education, both to ourselves and to our community. I just want to ensure that this common sentiment is promoted by our students association that will properly represent us both within the uni and to the wider community.

Gillian Riley

Students First

Representation is the key word here guys. I'm a fourth year Asian Studies/Science student (so I've been here a while) and I don't know much about what the SA does, or who supposedly represents me. If elected, I would work to ensure student representation and actually deliver on better student services. Things like higher internet quotas for science students. Making sure the printers work in the computer labs. Pressuring departments about the ridiculous four or five hour pracs. Actually making sure students are represented, rather than just fleshing outmy CV.

Lucy Bird

Students First

I'm in second year, studying economics and arts (major in political science). I'm running for Gen. Rep. for the SA in 2004 to hopefully (and optimistically) have a small but lasting difference. In my mind there should be a greater emphasis on helping day-to-day issues of the majority of students, rather than political ideals of a fanatical few. Multi-faceted debates of contentious issues in an accepting atmosphere should become encouraged and an integral part of Uni life, rather than continued one-sided lobbying from specific groups on campus. Hopefully creating a more diverse and happier campus for all to enjoy.

Fiona Atkin

ER

I am a third year Arts student majoring in Theatre Studies and English. Over the past few years, I have seen my departments lose funding, lecturers and breadth because they create liberal thinking minds and not tools for the capitalist machine. I'm running with ER because I think it's time for every student to do something to try and save their education, and that of future students. I'm running because I know that fighting Howard's devastating education policies is the most important job the SA will have this year.



Louise Crossman

ER

I am a 3rd year Arts/Law student and have been active in the SA Education Department and Left Labor Club during 2003. My political activism on campus has given me extensive grass roots activist experience, and I am keen to continue and develop this through the SA. An activist SA is crucial in this time of detrimental changes to Higher Education, and ER candidates will ensure that the ANU campus continues to be active in the struggle against the regressive Liberal government, and the politically stagnant "Independents".



Nicola Jackson

ER

Hi, I am Nicola Jackson and I am a second year arts/law student who is passionately committed to actively representing the importance of quality student education at ANU. I believe that every effort must be made to resist the current funding setbacks and proposed reforms to Higher Education initiated by the liberals. I will actively lobby on behalf of students to resist the implementation of any such proposals attempting to reduce the accessibility and affordability of Higher Education and will promote greater accountability of the Students Association to the whole student body.



Shaun Haidon

Students First



David Sykes

Students First



Sarah Dinsmore

Students First

Woroni Handy Hint #291: The "apolitical" student politician is a funny animal. Best sighted on a clear day wearing colourful garb and a big grin. Dangerous if challenged.

More Gen. Rep. Candidates



Leong Seng (William) Phua

Momentum Nexus

Hi, I am a 3rd year Engineering student majoring in both Photonics and Materials Engineering. Over the past few years, I have been actively involved in student politics both at the national level as well as within the university here at ANU. In doing so I have developed useful skills apart from the many different experiences gathered. I am happy to take the opportunity in representing you, putting my learnt skills into practice, towards improving the quality of education for all. **Vote 1 Momentum**



Jennifer "Patchy" Basham

Momentum Nexus

"Hi all. My name is "Patchy" (you can invent the reason I may be called that, but if it involves Fabio, a rubber chicken, and baby oil, well then you're pretty damn...wrong). I have kicked around these traps for a few years, and will no doubt kick around for a few more (a P! - its all I ask for!). Ranting aside, I like walks in the morning (preferably following several hours of crazy hijinks), stuff that grows, and stuff that is funny. I think uni is great, and I want everyone else to think the same. One of the highlights of my university career was when I moved out of college, and discovered that wine came in bottles. The end."



Chin Zyt Oh

Momentum Nexus

Hi, I am running for the position of General Representative because I strongly believe in contributing to the campus community through voicing my students' concerns to the relevant department's authorities. My experience as the Vice President (Education) of The International Students Service of ANU (ISSANU) includes working with the International Education Office and ANU Students Association in dealing with welfare, education and social matters. Also, having been an overseas student for the past 6 years has enabled me to understand and respond to the needs of students from diverse backgrounds. **VOTE 1 MOMENTUM nexus!**



Mathew Johnston

Momentum Nexus

My name is Mathew Johnston and I am running as a Gen Rep. I am a 3rd year Arts/Law student. As a member of Nexus I aim to represent and promote communication and understanding between International and Domestic students. I am committed to working towards a more inclusive and tolerant community for ALL students, breaking down social stereotypes and promoting multiculturalism. I am concerned with the current state of education and Australian society especially in light of the proposed Nelson Reforms and the impact these changes will have on ALL students economically and socially. **VOTE 1 MOMENTUM-NEXUS! Moving for students!**



Jess Allen

Momentum Nexus

Don't be general about your vote, get specific. General Reps? Get over the party politics. Ignore the special interest groups. Make the views of astute individuals with discernment count. Get specific by voting for a general rep. You know what you want. Tell the SA what you want by voting for me as a general rep. Vote for someone who will turn up to meetings and who will pay attention to the specifics. **'Vote Momentum nexus - moving for students!'**

Or as George Dubya said, "If you don't stand for anything, you don't stand for anything."



Kate Holloman

Momentum Nexus



Shalini Pehrinaraj

Momentum Nexus



Jessica Giovanelli

Momentum Nexus

Though you might remember me as Philip Ruddock or a Chechnyan terrorist (Law Revue 02, 03), I share the political views of neither! I'm 2nd year Arts/Law and I've heard a lot of opinions as an opinion ed for Woroni this year. I believe in a clear voice for students without domination by a political agenda. For an independent SA, Momentum Nexus - moving for students!

Woroni Handy Hint #29: Most tickets are merely "other names" for campus political groups. This year "Labor Left", "Labor Right", and "the Liberals" are all heavily involved with various tickets. Guess which ones!



Charlotte

Burbrook de Vere

Momentum Nexus

I'm currently in my third year of my Bachelor of Music degree at the School of Music, and I have been involved with the NITA Students' Association for the last two years, firstly as a Department Representative and currently as the School of Music Chairperson on the NITA SA, bringing to the musos events such as the CSM Ball and those Happy hour BBQ's (yes, free food). The NITA buildings have too long been unknown to the rest of the ANU student body, and I relish every chance to bridge the gap between. So **VOTE 1 MOMENTUM nexus!, MOVING FOR STUDENTS.**

Ben Sakker Kelly

Students First

There once was a student called Ben
Who was studying firstyear Arts/Law
He wondered where all of his GSF went,
And why ANU was so poor
Alas, all the money was gone
Just where it went no one can say
The Student authorities had no idea
Even though it was them that we paid.
Benny is Jewish as well
He's sick of the statements each day
That Israel should be completely
destroyed
And peace is a long way away
So even though Ben really thinks
That politics isn't the go
Hes standing for Students First as
General Rep.
To fix the mistakes and then...
...chill...



Gen Rep Candidates

without candidate statements or photos:

Stephen Kiley - Students First
Todd Loydell - The Awful Truth
Anthony Williamson - The Awful Truth
Robert Hardie - The Awful Truth
Kate Vaughan - The Awful Truth
Dave Ryan - The Awful Truth
Samantha Robinson - Students First
Natalie Keene - ER
Steve "Mocha" Michelson - Momentum Nexus
Jessica Duggan-Larkin - ER
Samantha Robinson - Students First
Mathew Keneally - I
Hoang Khan - I

Woroni Handy Hint #93: The ANU's newest crop of "Indies" are going under the name of "Momentum Nexus". Last year they were called "Evolve". You probably know some of them - from a club, college or society. That is, *Woroni* suggests, part of their appeal. They are the regular ANUSA election favourites. Most pollsters say they are hard to beat.

Faculty of Engineering and IT

Andrew Lesh

Momentum Nexus

G'day fellow Students. My name's Andrew, but my friends call me Lesby. I'm running for Engineering Faculty rep so I can bring the best of the Uni to us Engineers. I've been the 3rd year rep in ANUESA (Engineering Students Association) this year, and I think I have what it takes to give engineers what they need at Uni, while creating a fun and productive place for students. Give me a chance to represent you, and I'll make sure you have the best time of your life while at ANU. VOTE 1 MOMENTUM Nexus

- moving for students!

Kenneth Jeyakumar

Momentum Nexus

Michael Keating - The Awful Truth

Robert Joseph Weir - Independent

Chris Bennett - Students First

Faculty of Science

Aparna Rao

Momentum Nexus

Hi there! Sure, I'm a science student, but what makes me different and why you should vote for me, is that I've proven I can get involved and make changes. Sponsorship officer for Debsoc, helping to write ANU's bid for a Model UN Conference, Burgmann ex-ressie, Golden Key rep, youth speaker at the 2002 World Congress on Information Technology. I've dabbled in physics and I'm now into maths and programming. Being Science Faculty Rep gets me involved in effectively representing our concerns about exams, assessment and facilities, or when we just want to have our say. So VOTE 1 MOMENTUM! - moving for students!

Anton Wasson

Students First

I'm a fourth year science/law student, commencing honours in 2003. I want to be Science Faculty Representative because the Science Faculty is going to face some important challenges in 2004 with, for example, the introduction of the Medical School. Science, unlike other faculties, is dispersed and science students tend to be apolitical. Science students need their concerns and wishes to be heard and relayed to those in charge. They need to be represented by someone who can communicate between disciplines, students and staff - ensuring better facilities and more support for the establishment of

social networks with the scientific community.

Manu Sundaram

Momentum Nexus

Hello there, my name is Manu and I'm hotly pursuing a Science degree at the moment. In my free time I like to read scientific articles, watch geek-shows and drink copious amounts of coffee while doing both. I also enjoy walking around campus with that science books titled "Ultra-advanced super-relativistic Quantum Mechanics" and nodding acknowledgingly in lectures.

Anyway, as a science faculty representative, I'd like to address students' concerns and redressal issues at Faculty Rep Council. If elected I will also organize a Science Careers Day event and bring government and other employers to the ANU Campus-the heart-throb of future science..VOTE 1 MOMENTUM! moving for students!

Gillian Riley

Students First

Representation is the key word here guys. I'm a fourth year Asian Studies/Science student (so I've been here a while) and I don't know much about what the SA does, or who supposedly represents me. If elected, I would work to ensure student representation and actually deliver on better student services. Things like higher internet quotas for science students. Making sure the printers work in the computer labs. Pressuring departments about the ridiculous four or five hour pracs. Actually

making sure students are represented, rather than just fleshing out my CV.

Faculty of Law

David Sykes

Students First

Ben Sakker Kelly

Students First

There once was a student called Ben
Who was studying firstyear Arts/Law
He wondered where all of his GSF went,
And why ANU was so poor
Alas, all the money was gone
Just where it went no one can say
The Student authorities had no idea
Even though it was them that we paid.
Benny is Jewish as well
He's sick of the statements each day
That Israel should be completely destroyed
And peace is a long way away
So even though Ben really thinks
That politics isn't the go
He's standing for Students First as General Rep.
To fix the mistakes and then...
...chill...

Alexis Arthur

ER

Hi. I'm a second year Arts/Law student who's committed to representing ANU law students. I've been actively involved in the Left Labor Club and Education Department, especially in the education campaign, as well as the UN society in its bid to host the Asia Pacific Model United Nations Conference (AMUNC) 2004. One of the key issues at the moment is the effect Nelson's Higher Education Review is going to have on your law degree. I also aim to make sure the law faculty is accountable to the students and, as your representative, I guarantee your issues will be heard within the faculty.

Matt Moorhead

Students First

Mathew "Stav" Stevens -

Momentum Nexus

Meredith "Mez" Tasker -

Momentum Nexus

Dave Ryan - The Awful Truth

Faculty Representative Candidates

Faculty of Economics and Commerce

Francis Khor

Momentum Nexus

Greetings! I'm studying a combined degree of Bachelor of Law and Commerce. I look forward to bridge the communication gap between students and of the Economics and Commerce Faculty to convey students' feedback the faculty as well as the ANUSA to ensure continual improvement and students' satisfaction. I have been an active student since I arrived at the ANU. My position as the Chairperson of the recent NLC ACT Multi-Cultural Week held at the ANU has given me the opportunities to liaise with the many university's departments and services. VOTE MOMENTUM 1, moving for students!

Faculty of Asian Studies

Bill Baneer

Momentum Nexus

Hi all, I'm a second year Asian Studies student, majoring in Japanese. The Asian studies faculty has a range of subjects to offer, and I'm keen to ensure they're all as well run as possible, while maintaining a relaxed and friendly nature. I have ideas that I'd like to contribute to the faculty such as greater cooperation between clubs/societies and the faculty, and involving international students in faculty life. I'm happy to take the opportunity of representing you, listening to any ideas or complaints you may have, and making Asian Studies the degree of choice for the discerning student. Vote 1 Momentum nexus! - moving for students!

Vote...LIMIT

Faculty of Arts

Peter Silver

Momentum Nexus

While "Arts" is often perceived as a 'nothing' degree, this social stigma should not be reflected in the quality of education that Arts students receive. Without getting wrapped up in educational and student politics, fundamental needs should and can be applied. Let's drop the ambiguity, indirect benefits and false promises and get serious about what we are all here to do - get a high quality and a well-recognised education. To do this we must look beyond the surface of the Arts Faculty so that we can

enhance the future of our education. Vote 1 Momentum Nexus! Moving for students!

Shaun Haidon

Students First

My name is Shaun Haidon and I am running for the position of Arts Faculty Representative in the upcoming Student Administration election. I am a first year student, undertaking a Bachelor of Arts (Policy Studies), so I can relate with other arts students in the pressures we face. If I get elected, I will do my utmost to represent the students in the Arts faculty, and I will put their interests first. I will also work to provide essential and better services for all students at the A.N.U. The S.A is about representing students, and that is

Adam Kolberg

Momentum Nexus

Though I loathe student elections I'm putting myself through this only because I genuinely want Arts to have better status and representation at the ANU - for many of us it is not just an appendage to another more "job-focussed" degree, nor should it be. I'm third year going on to Honours, I've taken courses from six different schools, I promise total non-fictional independent representation, and I've had experience liaising as a college Arts Academic Officer and as a somewhat 'permanent fixture' around the A.D. Hope, Hayden Allen, and Copeland precincts. VOTE 1 MOMENTUM, MOVING FOR STUDENTS!

Rachel Mourad

Momentum Nexus

Does your student card never work when you swipe it for entry into the computer labs?
I aim to represent students' interests on any faculty matters and hope to contribute towards better serving students at uni. I'd like to see greater student involvement across uni and more action taken on behalf of the student body. If you have any queries, concerns, or issues about your faculty that you would like addressed...

VOTE 1 MOMENTUM nexus! Moving for students!

Sarah Dinsmore

Students First

Erika Belmar

Students First

NUS Elections

Woroni handy hint #22: The NUS is Australia's peak student Union. It is based in Melbourne and is riven by factional warlordism. The ANU is only a peripheral player in NUS politics...

Bek Hamed

Momentum

You may ask (and good on you for asking), just what is NUS? The National Union of Students' is the peak representative body for university students in Australia. It is our national voice, an important lobby group, an activist network, and a means for connecting student organisations around Australia. Issues concerning education, equity, accountability and ACT representation have been and will continue to be my focus at NUS. There has been much achieved in the years I've been involved in NUS, but there is still so much left to fight for. Vote 1 Momentum nexus!! moving for students!

For more on NUS see: www.unistudent.com

Joe McNamara

I

I am not and never will be a member of the Liberal Party. I have signed a contract so if I join the Liberal Party during my time as an "I" member, I shall be teased mercilessly by my private school chums, have my pocket money docked, be forced to play a rather rough game of Touch Rugby, and throw my boat shoes in the river. I'm just a boy who wants to make a difference at NUS, not a Liberal Party hack. Never underestimate the power of a boy, or a ticket slogan based on a popular film.

Kerry Muré

Momentum

Hi. My name is Kerry Muré and I have been at the ANU for two years. The NUS Conference is the national forum to discuss the diverse number of issues affecting you. As NUS delegate, I will clearly and passionately represent and advocate on issues affecting students of the whole ANU student body. Advancing the position and welfare of the diverse ANU student body is my key priority NOT student politicking. I identify as issues of particular concern: the rising cost of tertiary education, the recent federal budget and proposed education 'reforms', VSU, and healthcare. Vote 1 - Momentum Nexus! - moving for students!

David Walton

I

"I" is all about students. I'm going to help students by resolving the Middle Eastern crisis. I generally support the street directory for peace, but am concerned that the oppressed Shi'ite Muslim population in Israel will not accept it. I believe the only way to stop Palestinian terrorist groups like Jihad Islamiah and Hezbollah from committing acts of terror is to give them a separate state on the Red Sea coastline. I will fight at NUS for a solution to this problem caused by the illegitimate Israeli State. Thanks, International relations lecturer, for teaching me all about this issue.

Melvin Chan

Momentum

HELLO all. My name is Melvin Chan and it's my second year in a combine degree of Actuarial Studies / Economics. ANU has little voting power in NUS due to our small student population. I'll supplement our lack of quantity with good quality. With some valuable past experience with other national based organization, I'll make sure that we from ANU are heard and understood. I dare not assure good results, but I'll promise to work, work and work to get there. Once again, I'm asking for your support, for your benefit. Vote 1 MOMENTUM-NEXUS! Moving for students!

Sukanthan Aravindan

Momentum Nexus

NUS is the largest representative body of students in Australia, representing over 650 000 students across every state and territory. I will be working towards improving our education system by voicing out the views of the students. I believe that society in general enjoys a considerable benefit from tertiary education and that this facility should be free to all. Therefore, I don't support HECS or any other form fee imposition at educational institutions for course related purposes. As a minimum, HECS should be modified so that all students contribute equally, regardless of course of study and duration of study undertaken...LIMIT

JOHN HORAN

I

I AM ANGRY ABOUT EVERYTHING - I WANT TO FIGHT THE STATE. DID YOU KNOW THE FASCISTS PRACTICALLY EAT ABORIGINES DAILY. DID YOU KNOW THE FACISTS HATE HOMOSEXUALS AND JOHN HOWARD HATES THEM TOO. SO I HATE JOHN HOWARD THE FASCIST ALOT. HE HATES THE WORKERS; THE WORKERS (and the students) ARE OUR FUTURE. BUT HOWARD WANTS TO KILL THEM AND IRAQI BABIES. I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND STOP THE HOWARD GOVERNMENT BY RANTING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCHOHOL PAID FOR BY YOU IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT STATE. SEND ME TO NUS YOU BOURGEIOSIE PRIVATE SCHOOL MIDDLE-CLASS FUCKS.



Ryan Hamilton
Students First



Duncan Harrod
Students First



Erika Belmar
Students First

Simon Chinnock

ER

Hi, my name's Simon and I hate small-minded Liberal scum. Next year it will be crucial to have a Students' Association that is focussed on the fight against Nelson and Howard's higher education "reforms" which promise fee increases, course cuts and attacks on student unions. ER candidates will strive to involve students in the SA and in opposing these "reforms", because when we work together we can defeat the powers of darkness. Vote for ER - don't subject students to yet another year of the hapless "Independents" running your SA, through their latest incarnation "Momentum".

Nicola Jackson

ER

Hey! My name is Nicola Jackson and I am seeking support for election to go to the NUS National Conference. I strongly support quality student representation through the Union of Students and will make every effort to promote awareness and involvement in the work of the National Union of Students and its campaigns on campus. I believe that the current state of Higher Education and the alarming efforts to replace merit-based university entry with a system of user-pays requires urgent action through the close cooperation amongst students from campuses across the country and would really appreciate the opportunity to make...LIMIT

Louise Crossman

ER

I am a firm believer in student unionism, and feel that the NUS provides an important voice for students across the country. In 2003 I have been actively involved in the Education Department, which spearheads NUS campaigns on campus, and represented the Department at the 2003 National Education Activism conference. Activist NUS delegates will be vital this year as Nelson continues his attacks on higher education. The NUS has been a vital union in the face of these reforms, and ER candidates will work within the NUS to continue to fight for the concerns of ANU students.

Corri McKenzie

ER

Student representation. I always think it sounds excellent, as though students are standing up for what they believe, and critically engaging with the world around them in the fine tradition of philosophical and political thought. There is an ideal there, and there's a forum in which the views and demands of students across Australia can be voiced, if your representatives are prepared to stand up and argue. Now, more than ever, do we need active and effective student representation. So, when voting, vote for the candidates who are active, and who are prepared to stand up and argue. Vote ER.

Other NUS Candidates:

Dave Ryan - The Awful Truth

Anthony Williamson - The Awful Truth

Nick Pollock - I



Woroni handy hint #55: If you want to get ahead in life then the NUS is one way to go. Give our student Unionites a hand. You can vote in 4 of these guys....

Shooting the Jesus Egg

A Night/s With The Ambulance – Part I

We are the middle children of history, with no purpose or place. We have no great war, no great depression. Our great war is a spiritual war. Our great depression is our lives.

Chuck Palahniuk / Jim Uhls, Fight Club

Saving someone's life is like falling in love, the best job in the world. For days, sometimes weeks, afterwards, you walk the streets making infinite whatever you see. Time slows down and stretches forward and you wonder if you've become immortal, as if you've saved your own life as well. What was once so criminally happenstantial suddenly makes sense, a reason and order to every detail. God has just passed through – why deny it, that for a moment there, God was you.

- Joe Connelly, Bringing Out The Dead

By Dominik Krupinski

Over the course of a couple of months, I went on four ride-alongs with the paramedics of the ACT ambulance service; asking questions, writing things down, but mostly just observing. Over the course of 40-odd hours spent on the road with them, I didn't see any arcs of blood spraying from arteries, bones protruding through skin, or battery acid burns blistering across faces. I did, however, watch Rage, The Bill and a good deal of bad late-night TV. I also saw the effects of suicide, mental illness and ageing on patients, and rather more distressingly, their families and loved ones. I was privy to more warped conversations about death and dismemberment than I care to remember (the words 'peeled,' 'face' and 'off' not being those that anyone wants to hear spoken from experience, especially in the context of young children), but also to the display of a ... lets say *unique* ... brand of compassion that resides within the medical profession. I also saw some damn funny shit and some of the most hilarious routes to injury and embarrassment that idiots are prone to take.

And all of this, constantly, begged the question: why? ... why go out of one's way to witness other people's misery and the deeds of those that, by and large, are difficult to write about without being sued out of one's pants? (That thing being patient confidentiality is a powerful hindrance.) Indeed, short of a sick form of voyeurism, there seemed little purpose in trying to bash out some sensationalist account of the work of the ambulance service.

And the only answer that comes readily to mind is one that, by necessity, side-steps the more sensational aspects of the job. Trauma cases, cardiac arrests, OD's. Probably for the best seeing as I didn't see nothin' of the sort (thank god) ... although ... as I was told on my first night with the service: 'Oh, you should have come out with us last Friday, when we had that fatality. That would have given you something to write about.' ... But really, that's a little besides the point.

What I wanted to find out was also a *why* ... why anyone would choose to work as a paramedic. Hence the calls that I attended were more a case of watching how the medics worked, and their attitudes and reactions to their job.

It's no mistake that this story begins with a quote from *Fight Club*. I initially wanted to see whether, in the absence of some overarching unifying force; be it conflict, depression, exploration or development ... some broad impulse to coagulate the individuals of our society into a lumpy, object-driven mass, there would naturally be people within that society that would create conflict within their own lives to occasion that purpose?

I went to medic school to drive fast and save lives, like the heroes on TV, who in an increasingly muddled world always worked for the quickest, clearest good.

-Bringing Out The Dead

Which is simplistic and childish, but a good place to start ...

Rob turns volume of TV off, Mike questions fallen man and his wife. Major part job seems to be compassion. Everyone mentions this and medics role seems to be reassurance as much as anything else. It's very quiet, like coffee table conversation, and wife seems used to it. Mike asks about former home ("was it nice there?") and together with Rob they take patient to bed, apologise for delay.

"If you're worried just call again, don't hesitate." Alf Stuart is on the TV, and the dog's name is _____. They talk about where it was bought.

"We'll just say goodbye to him."

"Bye, _____, are you feeling alright?"

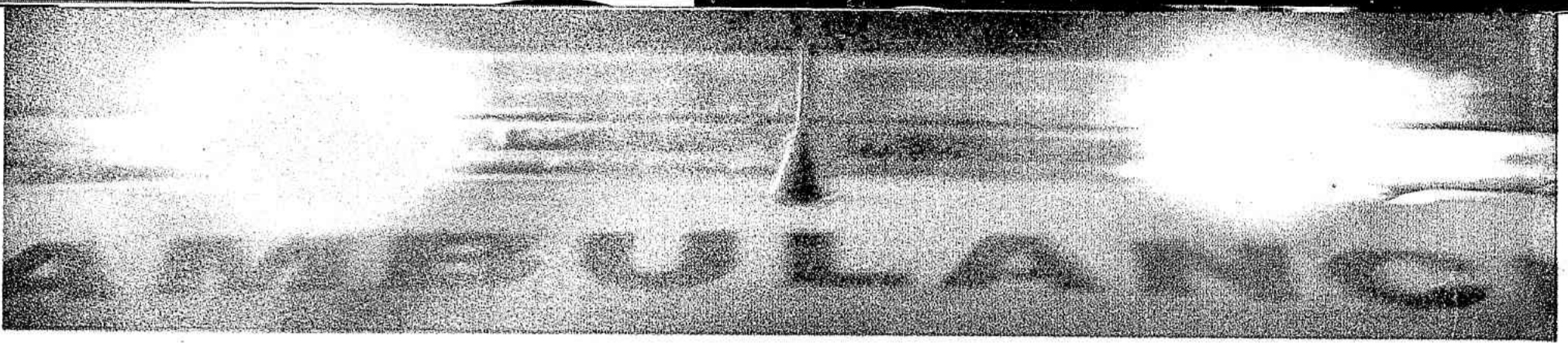
OBJECTIVE JOURNALISM. 3 W's AND A H. NO, WAIT, THAT'S NOT RIGHT...

"Each of our stations; you can make some broad generalisations about the work. They don't always hold, and our crews can travel literally anywhere within the territory and even potentially outside the territory during their shift. But in Dickson, particularly on Friday night, they'll get heaps of work out in the city. Reasonable proportions of that will be drug or alcohol related. My experience, and the experience of other ambulance officers is that while the drug stuff is what will often make the headlines, when you look at absolute numbers of patients and the circumstances that you attend during a shift, you deal with far more alcohol than you do with illicit drugs. And sometimes it's not the alcohol as the primary cause, but it's a major contributing factor ... so you have assaults and violence, and potentially car accidents and things like that where alcohol has played a part.

"At the ends of Canberra, the Tuggeranong Valley and Gunghalin, you have a different demographic. There is a fair proportion of young families, young kids, so you get paediatric problems and complaints in both areas, and fairly substantial groups of middle-aged or elderly people as well. So a lot of the people that ambulances deal with on a regular basis are the aged ... and obviously with an ageing populations that's just continuing more and more."

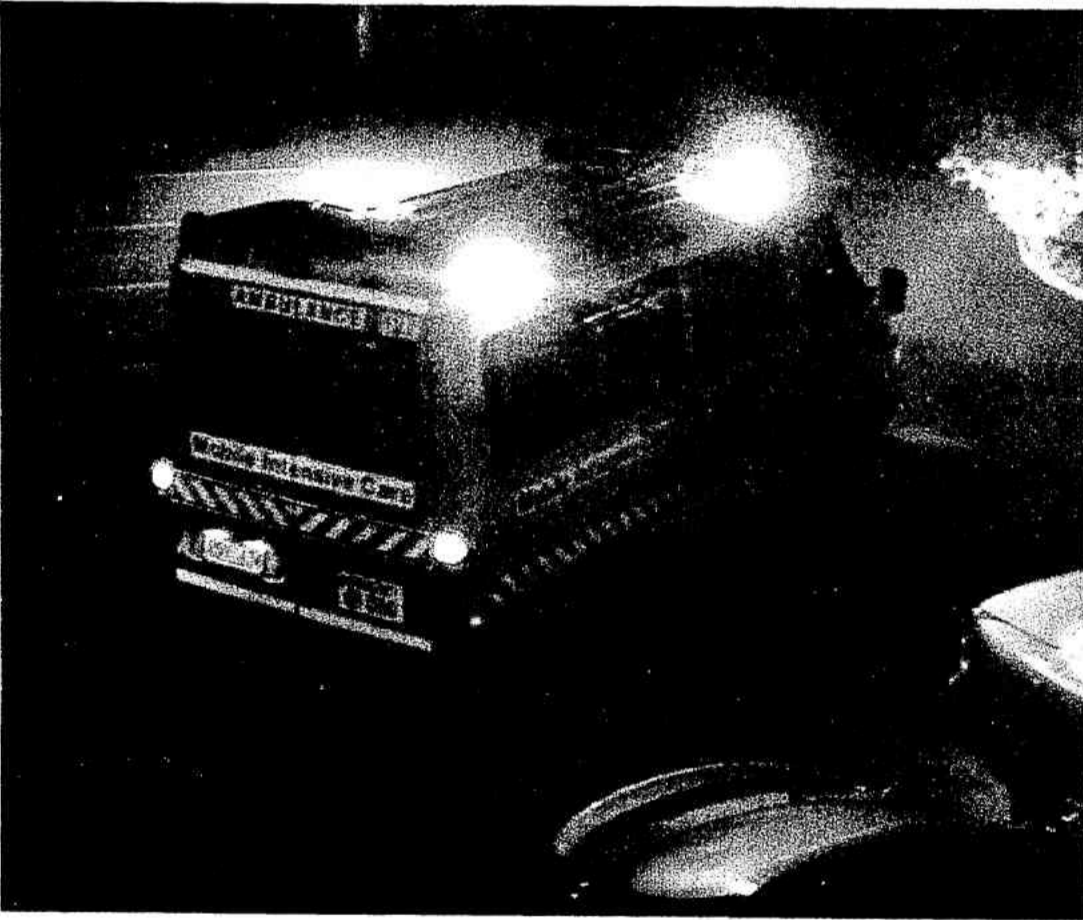
- David Dutton, Duty Supervisor

Becoming a paramedic is a long process, and one that reflects the job's clinical nature; especially here in the ACT. Ambulance officers in the territory are more than just glorified bus drivers. Each ambulance is staffed by at least one intensive-care paramedic, and all of them are full-timers. Canberra is one of relatively few cities in the world with a service that is entirely volunteer-free. And the lack of any delineation in rank or ability is another thing that is unusual here, as ambulance services in most other Australian metropolitan areas are stratified. In Victoria this stratification is between General Duties paramedics and MICA (Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance) Paramedics. In Sydney, there is a further distinction, with Advanced Life Support Officers sitting between General Duties and Intensive Care medics. In Canberra, everyone is either an Intensive Care paramedic or a student.



Getting accepted in the first place is difficult. There's a lot of demand and only a few places. One medic that I talked to said that there are maybe 6 positions open a year, on average. From what I saw, this was offset by the number of transferees from other states, but the point is that more people want to get in than there are places, and the difference is very, very high. Chris, a student paramedic who I rode along with on my second night out, was a nurse for 22 years and had been trying to get into the ambulance service since 1982. He had done some work in Newcastle in the meantime, but it was only 2½ years ago that he finally got into the ACT service.

Once an applicant is accepted, it takes 3½ years to become a qualified Intensive Care Paramedic in the ACT. That time is divided between ten weeks in the classroom (annually), the rest on the road. 80% pass mark requirements, on road clinical assessment, oral examinations, etc. Having said that, the impression that I got was of a rigorous program in a Japanese grad school kind of way. Really hard to get in; panel interviews, tiny proportions of places to applicants, strict criteria to weed out the unsuitable, but once that's out of the way it's not so bad. The training sessions that I attended were certainly pretty laid back. 'Like watching paint dry, mate.' Which is not to say that they weren't strenuous, they had to know a great deal of medical symptoms, causes and treatments, but, as I was told by another student, after the basics it all comes down to treating, on average, the same symptoms all the time, it's just that they know what causes them. What this means is that, after the initial training period, it's the time spent learning on the job, under supervision, that's the most important.



Once qualified, it's like what David said up there. Not much trauma, a lot of drunks and elderly patients, some OD's, a lot of counselling people; a lot of routine work. A major attraction is the 4X4 roster (4 days on, 4 days off, split between 2 day and two night shifts). It also seems important to develop a warped sense of humour and say 'fuck' a lot because 'not a lot' doesn't mean 'none' with respect to trauma, cardiac arrests, cot deaths and other traumatic incidents; they are an unavoidable part of the job.

Ambulance officers come from all walks of life: nursing, trades, the armed forces, banking, the public service, etc. Most of the longer serving medics that I met, though, had been tradesman or army officers before, and this is something that's changing now that becoming an ambulance officer is

essentially an on-the-road bachelor degree of ambulance-ness. In the old days, and in other states, to become an Intensive Care medic took a long time and a lot of experience, it meant moving up the ranks. The move away from this is an issue of concern in the service. I spoke to one student that previously worked in NSW about this:

"In the ACT, everybody becomes a paramedic, whereas in NSW, basically you go through the levels and then have to apply to be a one. And to become a paramedic you basically have to go to Sydney and work there ..."

I asked him if he thought that experience requisite was something that was lacking in the ACT system:

"Yeah, I agree with that. I feel that ... I don't know if they really realise it, but they are throwing you in here without the major work [experience]. I don't know if the clinical people are actually thinking about that, but ... I mean, I've often thought about going to Sydney to do basically what you've been doing, to ride along with the workers and see what happens there."

"Yeah, you need ... I mean, some rural station in NSW can get a lot of good work too. Bathurst, Dubbo and those places, the North Coast, there's a lot of road trauma and that sort of thing, but that's not all the work anyway ..."

"I think you have to be in Sydney to get the variety of it all."

This notion of experience was one that kept coming up. Given that Canberra doesn't have any sort of rank and work delineation, there's a certain amount of apprehension in some older paramedics about the way that it's possible to join the service straight out of school, about the lack of *life experience* that this leads to in candidates. Because, you see, a lot of the job is about attitude and being able to deal with people.

"When I first joined the service, you had to be in the job for 3 years before you could even look at another avenue, you had to be an ambulance officer first, just to get the basic skill levels right. And ... I didn't think that was a bad thing, because it's not just a matter of learning skills, it's learning how to be able to communicate with people, and that's a really important part of this job, being able to communicate with people. I thought it was a good idea to get your footing right before you progressed any further."

"Everything we do is a continual learning curve. There's no-one in the ambulance field, or any field, that can turn around and say they know it all. Everyday a different medication comes out, everyday there are new advances in medicine, every day, something different is happening. Not every job's the same, they can be similar, but they're not the same."

-Graham Pyne, 24yrs (21 yrs NSW – metro and rural, 3 years ACT) in ambulance

But that's all you really need to know for our purposes, here. That there's plenty of learnin' involved and it's hard to get in to be a glorified bus driver, Intensive Care Paramedic. And that, I think, covers our first 3 W's and a H. *Who, When, Where and How*, which, if we're to stick with the staples of the print reporting *diet* (oh, but high school was so long ago!) leaves us with the juiciest portions to go - the succulent meat of the dish, if you will - what and why...

CALL 3: P3 ASSIST

M and R assist T and D to remove a fat ___ who's fallen and probably broken a femur. It's like a goodnatured camp-out. Everyone's in reasonably good spirits and fatty's full of morphine. They're calmly talking about how best to get the man out. Around corners and doors...It's like a team solving a puzzle ... a high school project. M says later that it was a difficult job. The patient was in pain, they had difficulty to find a vein for a canula, but the point was to prevent panic.

I WANTED TO DRIVE FAST AND DANGEROUSLY; CHICKS DIG UNIFORMS

It seemed important to ask everyone the same questions. Well, roughly the same questions. Not everyone's badge seemed an important interview topic. Three quite similar questions were a good starting point, though.

Why did you join the service?

Do those reasons still hold?

What are the most attractive aspects of the work, and the least?

It's interesting to note just how few, in speaking about the worst aspects of the job, referred to the 'terrible things' that ambulance officers see.

*

"I thought that would be a better vocation [than labouring], that it had more opportunities for my future. [I] found that I enjoyed the workloads, the variance in shifts, the different types of work that you're subjected to, and the ability to actually do something to make a difference to somebody's life."

"Basically, yes. It's still a job that provides variety of work, it provides an opportunity to meet and see different walks of life and still, on the rare occasions these days that we actually, uh, go to somebody that is sick [ah, humour] to do something to assist them."

"I think that the best part of this sort of work is relieving people's suffering and giving them an opportunity, should they so wish, to continue their life. The worst aspect is the shift work."

- John, 24 years (15 VIC, 10 ACT), Southcare helicopter paramedic for 3 last years

*

"I was involved in many community volunteer organisations right from day one. ... Over [a] period of time, I became interested in being able to go out there and ... and, what better word is help people? ... To go in and try to help people with their issues, because not every patient is in pain, there are other issues, and to get them to where they need to be.

...
"To have them pain-free by the time they get to hospital, or to y'know, have their fluid replaced and at least give them a fighting chance once they get to hospital, especially if they have major trauma injuries."

"I'm still enjoying it. I'm still here, I believe for the right reasons, because I'm interested in being able to do something for people because they're sick, injured or other. I think the day I lose the ability to care about people and what happens to them is the day I toss it in, and I can't see that happening anytime soon.

"I really love what I do. I've been able to revert patients, treat patients and get them to hospital in a better state than when we got to them."

"Basically, the patient contact. If you didn't like people, you wouldn't be in this job, and you meet every different type of person imaginable. It doesn't matter who they are; they could be rich and famous or poor and on their feet, and everyone's got a story to tell.

"I think that's a very important part. You get to meet people. They can be sick and injured, and a lot of them can't talk to you, but ... you get to do people to hopefully help them. Sometimes you achieve it, sometimes you don't, but on the whole, it's generally more positive than negative in that area.

"The shift work. [is unattractive]

"The worst aspect, patient-wise, is usually to do with children."

- Graham, 24yrs (21 yrs NSW - metro and rural, 3 years ACT)

*

"My mother was in a car accident in Sydney and she was quite severely trapped. I heard the impact, which only happened three blocks away from where I was working, and my boss had just come around the corner and told me that my mum had just been in a bad car accident and took me up to the scene. The ambo's arrived at the same time, and because I was a nurse, they were happy for me to help.

"And I sat back after it - after my mum had been extricated. She didn't have any major injuries - and I thought, hmm, that'd be a good job.

"That's what turned me around. They just seemed to know exactly what they were on about and what to do. It was just the sort of flashing lights and adrenaline kind of stuff. I knew that there was a completely other side to being an ambo, having known a few, but I still thought that it looked like a good job"

"I just like the autonomy and that you're in control. It's nice to be able to practice as more of a clinician than as what I was as a nurse. [That, and the] qualifications that you get. The general public don't really understand the level of qualifications that intensive care paramedics do have... it's not like you're just given a badge and told to go and play with all sorts of weird drugs...

I've got to remember to get a photo of one of those badges...

I've got one on my jacket in my car, one of the new ones.

Oh, great

Yeah, so people don't get that. People still see us a lot as drivers ... as ambulance drivers.

So you didn't get into the job to drive fast?

No [laughs], that was an added bonus. Driving fast on the wrong side of the road and running red lights.

...

But, yeah. I've always liked ... I guess it comes down to that standard thing that you like to assist ...

Does it have to be a matter of saving lives? What sort of work is it that ... er ... well, you know what I mean

I do, yeah...

And that's why I use the word assist, rather than save lives, specifically here in Canberra, where the whole saving lives thing just doesn't kinda occur that often.

It does occur, mind you, and that is ultimately part of our job and that's what ultimately all of our clinical skills and training are for: those desperately, life-threateningly ill patients that do require all sorts of different interventions, but our skills in that region probably don't get used as often as people like to think, especially here.

NSW is a different story, you get a huge exposure to life-threatening injuries of all types, irrespective of where you are but, as I often say to students that I've trained over the years, our job has got a huge pendulum and it swings and that's why I use the term assist. The two sides of that being, for instance, a cardiac arrest where we bring someone that was essentially dead back to a living, breathing, pulsing person that's talking to us, and Mrs Jones who's fallen out of a chair and hurts her leg and doesn't need to go to hospital but needs a nice hot cup of tea and a nice warm blanket and a bit of a cuddle.

That's the other side of it, holding someone's hand for 10 minutes and calming them down and telling them that the world's not going to crash around their shoulders ... give them a bit of perspective.



It's all the same. If you walk away thinking, y'know, I've made a difference to someone, that's what it's all about.

What's the worst aspect of being a paramedic? Both in Canberra and in areas with a lot of high-intensity work, with respect to the rate of burnout, etc?

Oh, [snorts], huge burnout. Fatigue and burnout is very high in Sydney, and I'd say that the worst aspect of this kind of work, for me personally, and it's only because of the amount of exposure that I've had, is kids. If you do sick kids or see kids that you can't save, that's something that effects you at a deeper level.

That's just me. Some people don't care. Some people just cruise along and go, oh, it's just another patient - there's nothing you can do. But kids sit very deeply with me and always have, and that's only intensified since I've become a mother myself.

I mean, you try your hardest for every patient, but ambos just tend to find there's something more when there's a kid involved. And I think that that's just human nature.

Fatigue's probably the high rate it is because it effects you in many different ways, like, nights are a bit of a killer, tonight's been a very slow night but, you kind of hit a brick wall at about 3 in the morning and you pray that you don't get a big job because you think I'm just too tired, I just...

... Injury is another thing, in this job. Our environment is extremely uncontrolled ... our stretcher on it's own weighs 90 kilos, without a patient on it. Our drug kit, our (illegible), together they weigh 40-odd kilos. Our equipment alone is enough to cause us back injury, let alone carrying a body ... a patient ... down the stairs in a two story house. Wet, rainy car accidents where you're slipping around in oil and water and glass and

... it's very easy to become injured in this job and there's not much you can do about it because it's your job and you've gotta do it.

Besides all the blood-bourne [laughs] factors, body fluid factors [laughs again]

- Trish, 12yrs (10 NSW metro and rural, 2 ACT), prev. nurse (2 yrs)

"... I always felt that I wanted to do something in the patient care line. I was going to [go back to nursing] but it just didn't feel like the right choice. I started thinking about related areas, and I guess the ambulance kind of found me rather than the other way around."

-Mike, 8 yrs (ACT)

"When I was in school I was interested in medicine. Then I spent time in hospital, and thought about it more there. ... A bad car accident had me laid up for about 5 weeks and I just decided that I wanted to do it. Just the medical aspect of it."

"Initially when I started, I wanted to do it for the medical side. For the autonomy, for being out on the road and making decisions. That was back in '82, when I first applied. But going down the line, things like lifestyle, the way that the hospital system is at the moment has probably made me appreciate this job more."

"At the moment, I'm not a paramedic, I'm just in training, but I think that it will be the shift work with the four days on, four days off, and being able to do what I want on my days off. I think that will probably be the big thing, the lifestyle. You know, I'm almost 50, so I'm looking more to wind down than to ... (trails off)

... I mean, there's still a challenge, and there will be challenge in the job, because it's all new, and it keeps close to hospital work."

- Chris, Student (2½ years) + 22 years nursing

"Nothing springs to mind. ... I just liked the idea of being an ambo, I guess. Drivin' round ... helping people."

- Transferee, 16 yrs experience + 6yrs army. Wished to remain anon.

"[I]t was almost something I fell into, almost a natural progression, I just saw an ad in the paper and thought that it was a nice combination between driving and nursing."

"[Have things changed?] Not really. It is a really good job. They used to say in Sydney that it's the best job in the world in the best city in the world, and now I'm in Canberra for family reasons, and it's much the same. It's still a very good job, very rewarding. The money's not the best, particularly compared with other professions, but it's still a good job, I mean, people say you must see some terrible things and all that crap, but you see some very funny things too ... people do some pretty stupid things."

"I enjoy people contact, I enjoy having a chat. It's a pretty good job for that. I like to make a difference. I mean, you can turn up to a lot of jobs and just do the same old crap day in, day out and not really achieve anything, at least with us, we ... hopefully most of the time our outcomes are positive. It brings relief to people, and that's a nice thing."

"I 'spose the worst part? I dunno. I say that the shift work's good, but sometimes it can be a real drag, especially the night shifts. I mean you're up for 14 hours with your eyes hanging out of your head. And the pay's crap."

*-Transferee, 6 yrs experience in Sydney. Formerly worked as a nurse, bus driver and public servant.
Dude was happy to be quoted but I lost the tape.*

"I really like doing pre-hospital, but in the army, as you go up in rank, you don't do as much hands-on, y'know? It would be more supervising of the lower rank soldiers. So, with coming here, I get back to what I first loved."

"The big difference is that the army is trauma-orientated, where the ambulance service is more medical-orientated ... y'know like your heart attacks."

-Hillary, student (6 mths) + 12 years army medic.

"I was trying to change my career ... I guess I was just fishing around looking for something [and] I was interested in a people-oriented job. I like that whole caring ... thing, so that attracted me. To me, that work was meaningful."

-Student (2½ yrs) Wished to remain anon.

"I didn't feel I was doing anything worthwhile with my life and I wanted to feel that I was."

- Student (2 ½yrs). Wished to remain anon.

Downstairs with the red-cheeked drunks and a ___ that throws up and 'can't move' ... here's that feigned sympathy, then. HIPPIES! And is that Bon Jovi playing upstairs? -----! But even here, Mike is quite happy to take the patient to hospital ... 1:45, the start of the drunk rush, apparently. Not many actual drink-spikings ... statistics aren't actually released, but Rob says that actual cases are rare compared to the number of calls for them. I mean, drink spiked at home with the parents?

Apparently with all the publicity around spiking, people use that as an excuse to get medics when they're just drunk.

"PAIN SCORE and PEAK FLOW. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THESE?"

TIN POISONING; CONTEMPT

We stopped for petrol at maybe 2am and I saw ----'s ambo badge in his wallet when he went to buy a snack. It looked like a police badge.

"Is that good for anything," I asked.

"Like what?"

"Do you get discounts?"

"Not really. Its good for a wank when you first get it."

Indeed, the idea of a power trip that comes with a uniform and a bright shiny badge was something that I came to hear more about. Obviously, more so in a bad apple/bunch context than as a widespread symptom of the medic mindset. When we got to talking later, in a lull (lots of lulls that night. They apologised later that I didn't see nothin'), ---- told me that it was only natural that there were people who joined the service that were just nerds or whatever in high school, that didn't get any respect, and had just joined up to get a uniform and hop on their big high horse. Kind of like my impression of the police for a while ... that they're just Eddies and Marist boys that didn't make the grade on the football field and signed up with the force instead. Mind you, since then I've met a couple of good, (well, *literate*) cops, so y'know. This idea of the ambulance service as a poindexter power trip struck me as odd, anyhow, given the difficulty of becoming a medic. Like I said, there's a high demand for places, and as I was made to understand, there are only 6 or so positions made available each year.

Speaking of bad apples ... during another lull, we got to talking about movies and I asked ---- if he'd seen *Bringing Out The Dead*, the Scorsese film based on Joe Connelly's ambulance novel. He said he had, and when I asked him what he thought, if it was an accurate portrayal (y'know) he was pretty hesitant about, well, transplanting the experience in Canberra to that sort of distilled worst-of story in New York's Hell's Kitchen. He did mention that there were some Tom Walls types in the service (egotists, crazies) but that they were *bad apples*, you see ... bad apples ... there was some vague talk of where to find them, but it seemed redundant to chase it up. Who to tell? What really struck him, though, was the film's portrayal of drug and alcohol use by medics. He told me in a friend-of-a-friend way (no one ever sees anyone doing it, but there are stories...) that he has heard of drinking and drug use on the job. Maybe not so much now, but in the past.

Which reminds me of an episode of *Full House* where one of the characters, Joey or Corey or something, an ex-junkie or speed-freak, tries to get his life in order and become a paramedic ... and his friends say 'well hey, man, they *should* give you the job. I know if I was looking for people to run red lights with a van full of drugs, *I'd* want someone with experience...

Hmm, indeed. Drug use, well, it doesn't seem to be that big a problem (maybe it's just in here to *spruce up the story*), and my tour through the ambulance service didn't exactly bring up a hell of a lot of gear that could ... well, they do carry adrenalin, but you'd want to be careful using *that*...and morphine has to be signed in and out. Most likely this is just urban legend material, claws on car doors ... something alluded to because of stories heard about the not-infrequency of dipping into supplies among anaesthetists because of ready access and the stress borne of a job which is actually very, very demanding. That all this talk of drug use and nuts came out without any prompting bears some reflection on that, one would be inclined to think.

... I did hear this one story though, which was pretty funny, yeah. Back in the day (the day being the 70's), medics carried quaint brown 'poison bags' in their ambulances to treat a whole range of ailments (all of which escape me, just now), including amyl nitrate (for angina pectoris, perhaps?). That was removed pretty sharp, I heard, although the story goes that only a small

percentage of ambulance crews knew of its, uh, *recreational* uses before it was. (That was before the days of the 'paramedic,' see, when ambulance officers were basically first-aid trained taxi-drivers, but still ... it hardly strikes this writer as a likely story.)

And while we're on the subject, that same day I heard about stomach pumps. Everyone has a story about the first time they got drunk, or the first time their friend got drunk, and they started doing spirits and got really fucked and had their stomach pumped, right? Well, lets see in my notes here:

Stomach pumps are pretty useless. Back in the day, they were used mostly to teach people a lesson, rather than for any real therapeutic value.

But that's neither here nor there, it is? We were talking about tin poisoning, nerds in uniforms and the fuzz ...

Mike went on to tell me that most of these types (power-trip nerds) would be weeded out during training (at 3 years, there are plenty of gaps to fall through), but that some will invariably make it through, like anywhere, I guess.

I went on to talk some more about it with another medic, a thin transferee from Sydney who stood out not only because they all look pretty burly, but because he was one of the few people prepared to talk openly on the record. Obviously then, I accidentally cut the part of the tape with his name, leaving only a snippet along the lines of 'yeah, I'm happy to be quoted.' At any rate, I asked him about the impact of the tier system that's in place in Sydney, where jobs are prioritised, in that paramedics (the tip of the pyramid in terms of ambulance officers) only attended *urgent* calls requiring their life-saving talents. In theory, at any rate ... Staffing and numbers meant that often this isn't actually the case in practice, and

any number of calls can seem like 'emergencies' over the phone when they're actually just idiots looking for a taxi service (I remember another story about a call to a woman complaining of severe stomach pains. She was still doing her hair when the medics arrived. She kept up the act even though it was obvious that she only wanted to get a lift to a night-spot near the hospital. I was told, though, that she did have 'real ripper hair,' though.) Anyhow, I asked him what he thought about that system and it's impact on the attitude of paramedics in Sydney:

"Yeah, yeah ... there is a real attitude problem ... I mean, traditionally in the system, when you became a paramedic they used to give you a badge, and it was quite a common joke that to have someone that got a badge and their behaviour changed dramatically, that, like, we used to call it 'tin poisoning.' Y'know, when somebody got a badge and they just changed ... yeah, there are big problems with

PORNO PALACES; FLL BLOW YA'S ALL.

War Stories aren't necessarily indicative of what work as a medic is about. That the first thing they hear when they tell people what they do is 'oh, you must have seen some terrible things' is like an in-joke in the profession, and besides, as one trainee told me: 'Yeah, the blood-and-guts stuff is alright, but it just doesn't happen that often, especially in Canberra. If you only lived for the blood-and-guts, you wouldn't turn up to work.' He went on to say that his favourite part of the job was doing transfers ... routine transport, generally of old people, from nursing homes or one hospital to another, because they afforded the opportunity to essentially get paid, 'and not an inconsiderable sum of money,' to sit in the back of a van for thirty-odd minutes and talk to someone who's likely lead a very interesting life ... so y'know, maybe he was just ribbing me, *having a lend*. Regardless, that fact is that its not all severed heads, junkie puke and arcs of blood ... there's a lot of routine work involved, a lot of sitting around watching Rage or playing solitaire. Having said that, I did hear some crazy shit in my time with the good folk of the ambulance service, often in the context that, while you do see some terrible things, you also see some funny stuff too ... the stupid things people do...

I was standing around with a couple of transferees from the NSW service one day, not an uncommon sight, given that opportunities for career advancement and proximity

to family that a transfer to the ACT can bring, when they got to talking about some of the things they'd seen in Sydney. Silly me, I didn't have the foresight to *record* this conversation, but rest assured; the important points and parlance are all faithfully reproduced. *Burnt into my brain*, you might say.

"I had a few calls to porno palaces when I was in Sydney. I remember this one time, this old guy had had a cardiac arrest in a theatre. He'd been sitting there pulling his pud and just snuffed it [feigns stiffing-out, so to speak, in a chair]. So we get there, and he'd been gone about twenty minutes, so we were just going through the motions really; got him out of his chair and started working on him on the floor there. I remember we asked the guy who had called us in, found him, if he could turn on the lights ... because we were doing this all in the dark, see, and he was like 'sure, sure,' and he goes and flicks the switch, right? And on comes the disco ball. So here we were, doing CPR on this old guy that had been pulling his pud on the floor of the theatre, to the rhythm of this disco ball that was slowly going around above us. As I recall, none of us thought to pull up the guy's pants at the time."

"Yeah, I've had some of those calls, too. I remember one time we got called to this place for a junkie and she was there, OD'd, so we get some narcan into her and she comes 'round and she's like 'Aw thanks, I'll blow all of ya's."

Ah, the things I heard about Sydney. "You should go on a ride-along in Redfern," they told me, "that'd open your eyes."

it ... I mean a little bit of knowledge goes a long way ... we just had this reader's digest thing come out that said, oh y'know, that we're the best professionals and y'know, we're the greatest ... but we're human, and it's a well known phenomenon that hospitals and healthcare and that, that that attracts odd characters anyway ... and then you throw in a little bit of power and a little bit of control, where some people have a badge and some don't and some people are respecting what you say because of your position and not because of who you are ... you do get some freaks that go off track ..."

I asked if there was much of that in Canberra?

"No, no, because it's, um, here it's a 'I'm a better paramedic than you are' sort of thing, but it still happens ... its still the basic powerplay ... I think that it just comes down to a very basic human instinct, y'know. We're very political animals ... some people just have to be the best at everything ... some people are know-alls ..."

Which is fair enough, too. And something backed up by my own experiences with some of the more long-haul paramedics in the service. Guys that have been in the job for well over 15 years (25 in some cases). There's certainly a more gung-ho attitude, particularly among a couple of the SouthCare (helicopter) paramedics that I met, but, y'know, so what? After 25 years of attending calls with near - (near?) - decapitations and four-year olds with their faces peeled off by automotive mishaps, there's a certain leeway towards unusual attitudes, it would seem. Furthermore, as Paul, a paramedic with 14½ years experience, and one of the fine folk to attend the Sydney-Hobart yacht race disaster in the Southcare helicopter put it, by the time one reaches that sort of pinnacle in the service, everything but the type-A personalities tend to be weeded out.

I ask them why they signed up for Southcare. They both said something about it being an extra avenue they could take that few people were allowed into. I translated this to mean "because it's there."

Which brings us to the A-types.

John says that most of the people that make it to the paramedic level are A-type personalities. Driven, task oriented, etc...

Except in Canberra, Paul says, where everyone trains to be IC Paramedics (unlike everywhere else, where there's stratification) ... hence, that may not be so much the case here (refer to 'attitude problems' section) ... and a wider cross-section.

Rush Hour - driving to Woden.

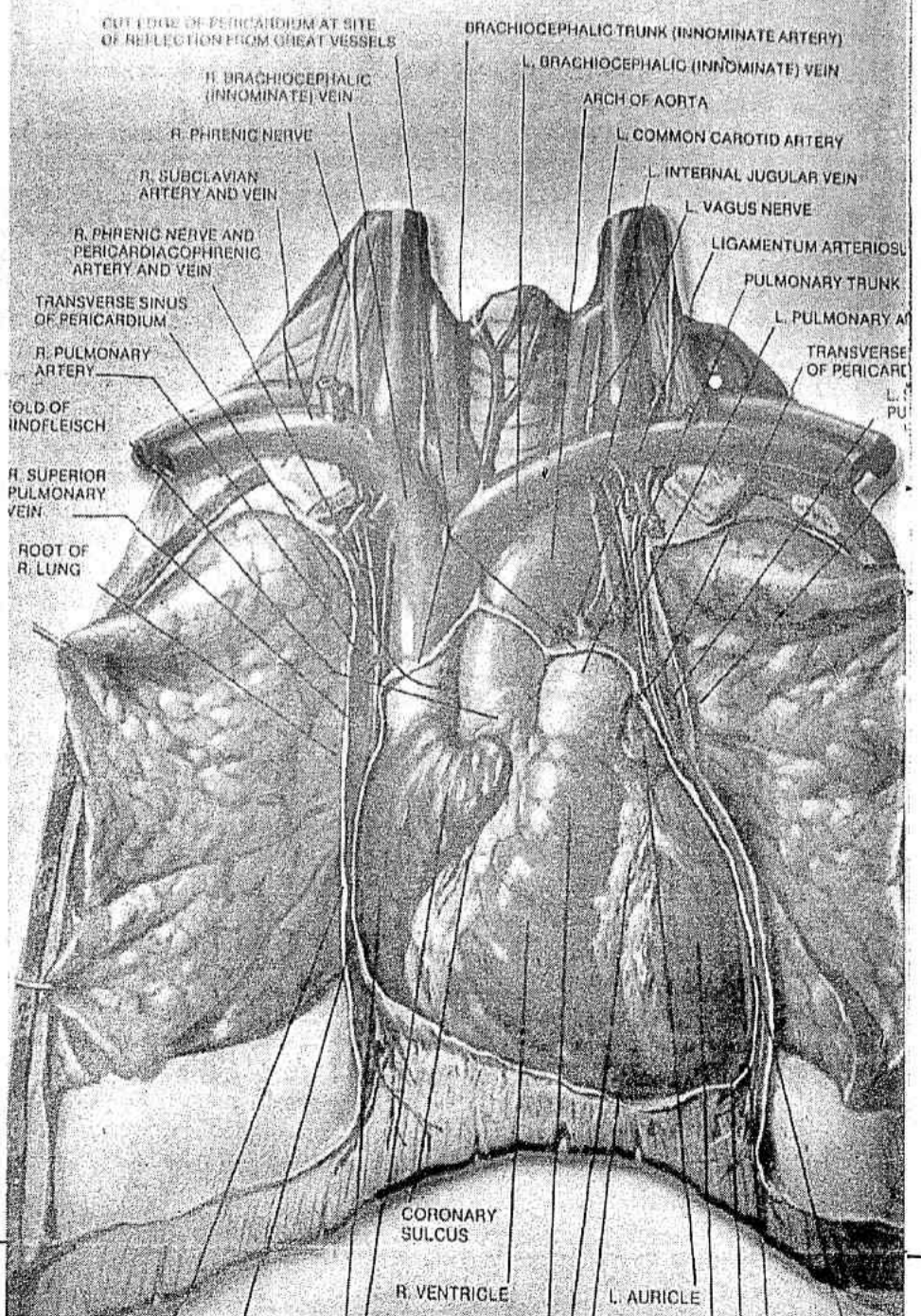
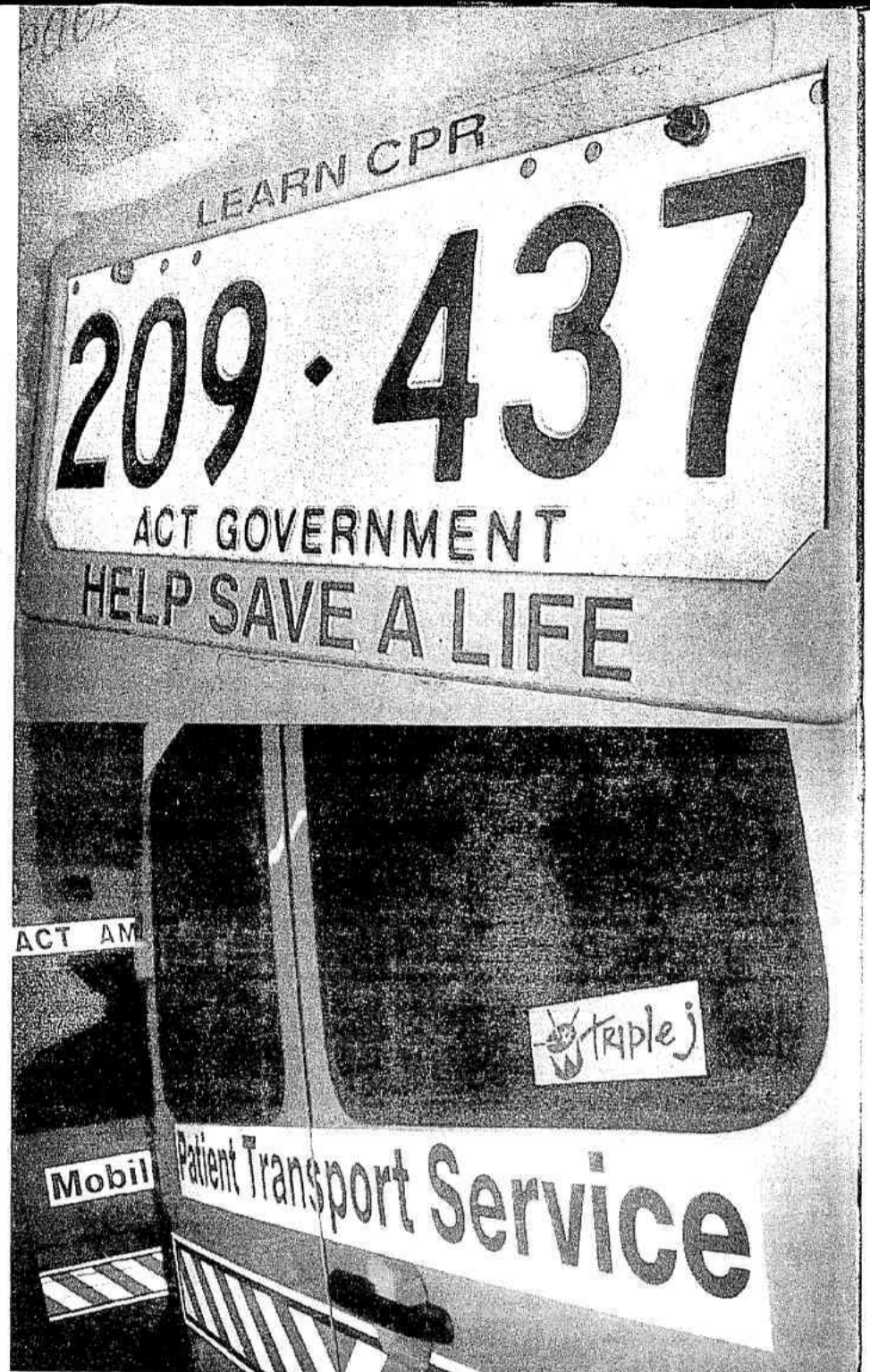
Paul: "you get a great sense of job security when you see the way people drive."

A guy in a grey Subaru cuts of a column of traffic in front of us.

The attitude that I was fishing for was some sort of contempt for the nine-to-five lifestyle and those living it; something that was a distinct undercurrent in a lot of the things I read in preparing for this story. To be honest, though, it didn't really seem to be there in the medics that I met. Sure, most of them admitted that they couldn't cope with a 'regular' job, that it was essentially just shuffling papers from one box to another - useless work, by implication - but there wasn't really any sort of superiority about these people. Naturally, not on the job. Courtesy goes a long way, and even when dealing with idiots the gruffest of the paramedics that I met were courteous. Making a situation worse by telling idiots what you think doesn't help nobody. They generally get plenty enough tude from the triage nurses once they get to hospital. It's a mistaken belief that arriving in an ambulance will get you treated straight away at casualty.

But even in training, or in private at the station, there generally wasn't any superiority expressed over patients, at least not by the representative proportion of the service. Some of the longer-term paramedics had a decisively warped sense of humour, but it was all in good fun. Some of the wackier suicides made for amusing anecdotes at any rate. And besides, in Canberra, no-one tries to shoot at you or beat you up for helping (In Sydney it's not altogether rare, in the 1980's 1 in 4 medics could expect to be assaulted each year, and I spoke to a couple that had been ... swung, stabbed, shot at ...). As I heard at a training seminar, even the junkies are of a better class down here, and what more could you ask for than that?

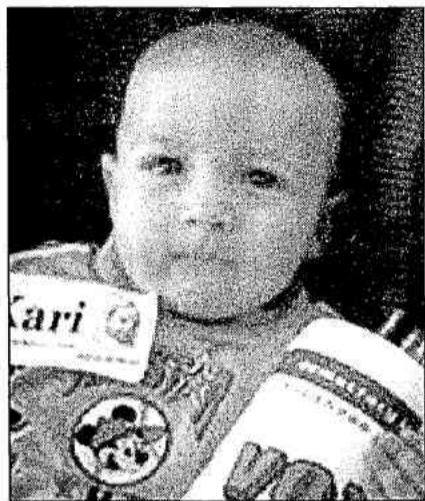
..No, really, this is going somewhere. Time in again next month.



Who the hell am I (not) voting for?

A Woroni guide to the upcoming student elections.

By Ali Jenkins and Nich Farrelly



They hit you up between classes, they introduce themselves to whole lecture theatres, and they bombard you with small bits of paper that exclaim their credentials. But how well do you know the people who take some of your GSF as an "honorary" for their hard work? In an attempt to make these student politicians something more than a name on a ballot-paper, Woroni will give you a short rundown of the election tickets for 2003.

(Warning #1: This is written from the collective knowledge of Woroni staff as, hopefully, a helpful guide for students to orientate themselves during election week. Woroni has endeavoured to make this summary of the current campus political landscape as accurate as possible. If you want to know more about certain candidates or tickets then ask them yourself. They will find you!)



Momentum Nexus

Have been described as the "800 pound gorilla" of ANU student politics. Momentum Nexus is the latest incarnation of the ANU's popular and successful brand of "indie" (independent) student politicians. With a diverse ticket drawn heavily from the halls and colleges, Momentum Nexus' policy is that they are students who pool resources in order to campaign for election. They are, they insist, joined by no ideological or philosophical glue. The ticket organiser and Presidential Candidate is Arts/Law student and BAGMA President, Max Jeganathan.

Students First

This ticket is broadly drawn from the Labor Students' Club. Their slate of candidates mixes first years with a selection of campus political veterans. Presidential candidate Duncan Harrod failed to gain a spot on the Union Board and was also involved in last year's mysterious SA election ticket "Turbo - we won the scavenger hunt". Social Officer candidate Erika Belmar is the outgoing Chair of the Union Board who failed to gain re-election. By branching out into the politics of the SA, this ticket is hoping for a change of scenery, and maybe a change of electoral fortune.

I

The ANU's long tradition of joke tickets has once again spurred the imagination of a pack of law revue geeks. Their often biting take on the world of student politics adds a dose of much needed cynicism and satire to what could otherwise be a dull, dull race. Campus hell-raiser and Debating Society President Mat Keneally has harnessed a quite funny retaliation against the seriousness of student politics. They won't be polling during election week, but if you read their statements and can't tell it is a joke ticket, you should vote for them.

ER

We don't know what ER stands for, but we assume it could stand for many things - like Emergency Room, Education Rescue or Ear Rat. The members of this ticket have opted out of running for executive positions and are focusing their attention on the spoils of Faculty and General Representative positions. Most of the candidates have been involved in the Left Labor Club, the ALP, and the ANUSA Education Department. Tickets from a similar background in previous elections have won a significant slice of the NUS delegate positions.

The Awful Truth

This ticket failed to submit any candidate statements or photos to Woroni (although we did harrass them). Our suspicions were originally that "The Awful Truth" was a Liberals Club ticket. This was confirmed when we asked an anonymous Liberal in Union Court and he said that it is the Liberal ticket, and that the name "The Awful Truth" had a nice "ironic Lefty" ring to it. This ticket has a small but seemingly dedicated bunch of individuals running for non-executive positions. Given the hiding the "Charlie's Angels" ticket received in the Union Board election, we think these individuals may be buying for some electoral blood.

Unesco

Rumour has it that these mostly second year students hail from a certain private school in the Dickson region. We would like to know more but they are this elec-



Woroni asked candidates running for Woroni to submit a page to show what they would do with Woroni in 2004. Only one of the three did so (see opposite page). That's why we filled this page with dodgy election commentary...



tion race's certified Dark Horse. Their slogan is "Putting the esco in people". You figure it out...

Collective Endorsed

If you see the words "Collective Endorsed" next to a candidate's name on the ballot paper, it means that the incumbent position-holder and the department they are associated with (eg. Women's, Environmental, Education) are in support of this candidate.

Independent

If a candidate appears on the ballot paper with "Independent" next to their name, do not confuse them with the independent ticket Momentum Nexus. This candidate is neither confirming nor denying any political allegiance, but has not shackled up with any of the election tickets. Now you know.

(Warning #2 - If you're a student politician and you think that Woroni has misrepresented you in any way - tough shit. We're not here to do your job for you. See you in Union Court!)



The Adams

Anyone can get involved!

Especially us as we nominated ourselves

If you can read this you are trying too hard



Our names are Adam and Adam respectively in no particular order. We are running for Woroni editors in this SA election. Because of this we have to fill this page as well as do our normal jobs as sub-editor of satire and music in no particular order. For no particular reason apart from increasing printing costs we wish to make Woroni an A4 size magazine (this is why we have divided this page between a (basically) A4 space and miscellaneous extra space.) One of the nondescript reasons for being A4 is that you would be able to place Woroni inside your bricks and read it during lectures (thus jeopardising your education). The smaller size also reflects our aim to make Woroni more manageable and bite-sized. To that end we will publish on edible paper (thus increasing printing costs) for reading at lunchtime.

We wish to maintain Woroni's successful structure used this year. However, apart from page edibility and size we wish to make additions such as a page devoted to displaying a calendar of events at ANU and information regarding ANU clubs and societies, comics and editorials where we rant about other various things such as the absence of edible paper in the general media. Below are some excellent excerpts of what we plan to do...and more propaganda.

Schedule Of Events For Woroniust (A Month Named After Woroni)

- 3rd *Woroniust* - Foundation of Woroniust day
- 11th *Woroniust* - Tree Hugging Day (Must supply own tree)
- 13th *Woroniust* - Celebration of The Adams becoming Woroni Editors Day
- 19th *Woroniust* - Public Nudity Awareness Week commences
- 22nd *Woroniust* - Piss up at Uni Bar while wearing ridiculous clothes (or no clothes if participating in Public Nudity Awareness Week)
- 26th *Woroniust* - Public Nudity Awareness Week ends
- 27th *Woroniust* - Imprisonment for Public Nudity Awareness Week commences
- 35th *Woroniust* - Will Woroniust Never End Day

Disclaimer: Woroniust is not an official month of the Augustine calendar and thus should not be added to your calendar. The Adams take no responsibility in future calendars that include the month Woroniust nor any resultant injuries.

Rant de Brodes

After decades of living with the dogma of political correctness, it is now very difficult to not step on somebody's toes. To toe the line (no pun intended) is extraordinarily difficult as by simply making a statement you often offend people even (and often) unintentionally (such as people with no toes). It is amazing in such a society that we can breathe at all. I mean we are blowing carbon dioxide into the air which is destroying the ozone layer. So perhaps we shouldn't breathe. This would obviously help the world as it would decrease overpopulation and possibly make humans evolve into a new being that could not make any statements (on account of not being able to breathe) and thus live in a politically correct bliss.

The Stuff Club

The Stuff Club is an inclusive club to discuss stuff. We do not only meet about stuff but also about things. Our members must like stuff and things, but mainly stuff, and be. If you are interested in stuff and joining our club then we are holding an open day at some time in some place on the 64st of Woroniust where miscellaneous transpirings will occur. Must supply own stuff.

Adam Hornsey: So what would you want to do with Woroni if you were editor?

Adam Brodie-McKenzie: Well, one of our main points is reflected by our slogan, "Anyone can get involved!" It is an attempt to get as many people involved from as many diverse areas as possible. Over the years Woroni has grown a reputation of being an incestuous bunch. I think one of the main efforts by this year's Woroni editors has been to move away from this incestuous nature. I would like to think that we could continue and build upon the good job that this year's team has done.

AH: What do you mean by incestuous? Are they all Tasmanians?

ABM: No, what I mean by incestuous is that it is always the same people, who are generally friends, doing all the work...it's very cliquy...I must say that I am not above this at all. I often get my friends to write the majority of music reviews. However, that is because there are so few external contributors.

AH: In that case, if there are only a few committed people to the magazine how can you expect it not to be cliquy?

ABM: Well, yes, of course that is true. It will always be cliquy to a certain extent because, as you say, there will always be a committed group, obviously such as the sub-editors, that will contribute frequently. If they are the only people that contribute then it will be hard to make it non-cliquy.

AH: So what do you suggest?

ABM: Well, first of all, getting it out to all students of ANU that they can contribute. This year's team has done a good job in this area. However I still have people say to me, "Don't you need an interview or something to get into Woroni?" We need to get it out there by doing things such as this interview to let students know they can contribute. We do not want to ruin the work that this year's team has put into breaking away from the clique mind-set.

AH: Many things.

ABM: Would it be fair to say as Woroni editors, *The Adams* would be entirely independent with no affiliations, and would strive to encourage everyone who wants to get involved to do so, or would that be grossly unfair?

AH: Yes.

ABM: What other changes would *The Adams* make to Woroni?

AH: Many.

ABM: Do you want to elaborate?

AH: No.

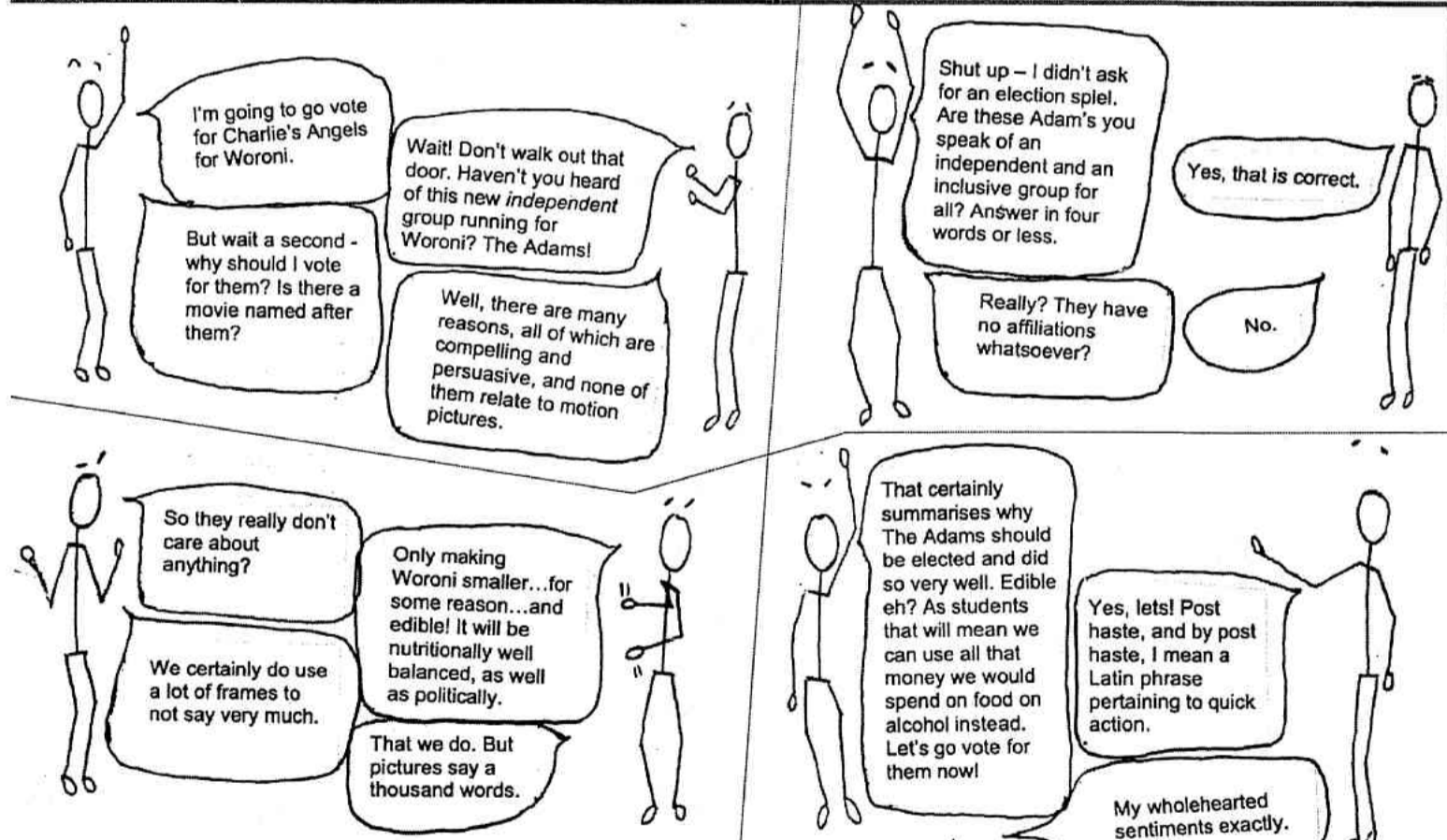
ABM: Okay then, thanks for the interview, Adam. We should make sure to speak again some time.

AH: We will serve sauce with every issue.

ABM: Okay... (awkward pause) So basically you agree with all the excellent comments made by the other Adam, that being me, in the other interview, conducted by you.

AH: (blank expression, nods head slightly.)

Note: Interview is dramatisation - may not have happened.



Disclaimer: This comic was meant purely as very humorous propaganda. Comics in future, of which there will be many (mainly to cater for illiterate students), will be much more educational and didactic, contain less obvious propaganda and contain less adjectives than this disclaimer.

Adam Brodie-McKenzie: Welcome to the interview, namely that of you by me, Adam. **Adam Hornsey:** Thankyou Adam. **ABM:** This interview could get quite confusing with the two of us having the same name, couldn't it, Adam. **AH:** Yes. **ABM:** So after this interview I am going to go and vote for another candidate for the Woroni editorship, even though I'm running with you for that very position. Would you advise me against this and if so, why? **AH:** Yes, I would advise you against running with me, as I have a tendency to ramble on pointlessly, such as when... **ABM:** Shut up and get down off the table, Adam. As editors of Woroni, what would you and your fellow editor, collectively known for some reason as *The Adams*, do?



Too Close for Comfort?

The Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) has made some controversial decisions recently. Were they the right ones? Maciej Wasilewicz interviews the (now former) President of the AVCC, President Professor Shreuder, to find out.

Entering the Commonwealth Club on the elusive Forster St right near all the embassies in Yarralumla, I felt extraordinarily underdressed in my suit. The spotless furniture, the special lamps that hung down over paintings to make them more visible and the sign at the door that welcomed the "Cards Ladies" were all telling me I was entering another world.

Always preferring to be early than late, I was asked to sit in the foyer waiting for my interview and also in no uncertain terms that cigarettes were not for sale at the club (perhaps I should have ordered a cigar? – I decided not to). Bored, I perused the published history of the club which was sitting on a stand near the table. To be honest, I just wanted to know what the hell this place was, where I was and who lives there. I could discover little from the book except that the members of this club were unlikely to be amongst the worlds starving poor.

It was in this setting that ironically, I met the leader of the lobby group for Universities across the nation. Prof. Shreuder said a warm hello and introduced me to his previous appointment, Prof. Lowe, former Vice Chancellor to the ANU. I politely tried to be relevant before I was asked into the lounge area for our interview.

Sometimes you are born to be a Vice Chancellor and sometimes to be a Professor. A former Rhodes scholar, Prof. Shreuder is about to retire not only as President of the Australian Vice Chancellor's

Committee but also as Vice Chancellor of his own university. He wants to go back to teaching, and proudly announced that he always liked teaching first year classes. After ten years as a Vice Chancellor at two different universities, he said that he wanted to go back to research and teaching. Staff and students is really what universities are about, he said, the management is really not that important in the bigger picture.

It is difficult to see how anyone could really not enjoy this misplaced professor's easy and yet subtly enthusiastic manner. He said that he could understand why groups such as the National Union of Students come to different conclusions than the AVCC and despite this they enjoy by and large a fruitful relationship. Seemingly dedicated to students I began to question why the organisation for which he was spokesperson had come to such very different conclusions than students about issues such as allowing universities to increase HECS.

Prof. Shreuder makes the point that the AVCC did not support all nor reject all of the governments proposals. Out of the eight points the AVCC reviewed, this was the one that drew all the controversy. Universities should be able to make their own choices. What he says he is thinking of doing at his own university, the University of Western Australia, is proposing some sort of scholarship system that would be funded out of the

extra revenue. The scholarships would target students from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure that equity is ensured.

Further Prof. Shreuder said that one of the key recommendations that the AVCC made was to increase the HECS repayment threshold from 30 to 35 thousand. Unfortunately (for all of us students), the Liberals do not agree.

Are universities in "crisis", I asked, referring to what our own Vice Chancellor, Prof. Chubb, said to a Senate Inquiry on the matter? They are definitely under strain, replied Prof. Shreuder. It seemed unlikely that universities would be given much extra funding from the government in the future. Both the Labour Party and the Liberal Party offered packages to make progress and help universities but neither was fully supported.

More broadly, Prof. Shreuder said that the AVCC had changed course from the past. Previously it responded to government recommendations, but now they actively engage the government during the planning stage to get more of a voice on the issues. The AVCC formulated a plan called "Forward from the Crossroads: Pathways to effective and diverse Australian Universities". This paper is what they use to measure any package presented by either party (and it's available online: http://www.avcc.edu.au/policies_activities/education_review/index.htm).

Interestingly he believed that the minor parties should not act

in a 'spoiler role'. They needed to make small amendments to Nelson's package in the Senate but not scuttle reform altogether because it was desperately needed if Australia was going to have top class universities in the future.

All this was said on one of the last days of Prof. Shreuder's term as AVCC President. The relevance of it all remains, because as he pointed out, the AVCC is a consensus based body. It was not like the Australian Medical Association where there was regulation of the industry from one body. They met voluntarily and did not enforce policy on each other.

Prof. Shreuder is a scholar on modern international history, especially colonial and post colonial. Born in Africa, sharing a surname with the German Chancellor, he is an impressive academic and has been a Vice Chancellor at two universities. I left the interview thinking we are lucky in many senses to have him, and not some of the other potential candidates, representing us to government.

I left the most important question for last, when I questioned the President of the AVCC what his favourite sandwich was. He said he likes good bread. Really grainy bread, he said, not bread like blotting paper. Add to that salad and sometimes cheese and you can satisfy one of the most influential educational spokespeople of the day.

The AVCC: Student Perspectives

Vox Pop

At 2 pm on a Friday afternoon in the ANU Students Association building we cornered anyone we could find. We asked them what they liked and disliked about the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee (AVCC).



Maty K

I don't know what you're talking about. It's a lot of Vice Chancellors who talk. I heard the word 'committee'.

Don't like that they are paid more than the PM. Johnny deserves fair remuneration (sarcasm). Do like the swim suit competition though.



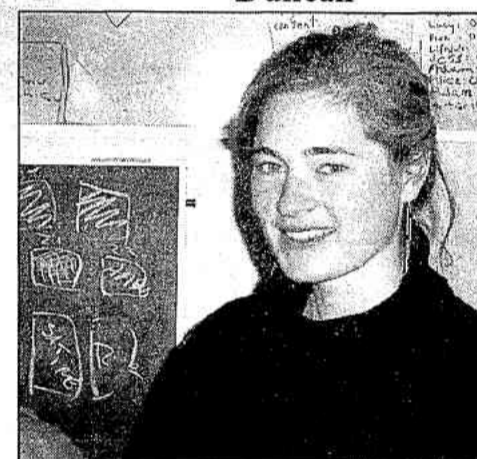
Duncan



Ameer

What is the AVCC? Just kidding. I like the fact that Chubb is on it and don't like the fact that Gavin Brown is on it.

I don't know them personally. Like that they exist. Can't really tell you anything more I'm afraid.



Jess

Mocca

I don't like the acronym because it reminds me of an insurance company, not something that would protect students. I like a lot of the reports that they put out. A report in 2001 on student finances that was useful and good in moving universities to realise that 8 out of 10 students are in paid employment and that affects education.



I have no idea.



Chin



Nat

Who's that?

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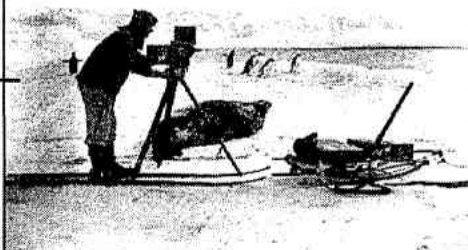
An evening with Tim Bowden

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Dear All,

As always I hope you are well and life is treating you well. News from your SA is as follows:

Higher Education

The Students' Association is, in conjunction with the Postgraduate and Research Students' Association and the Staff Union (NTEU), conducting a campus wide on-line survey starting in Week 8 to gauge your feelings on the proposed Higher Education reforms.

Please note this survey is not a political exercise but rather it seeks to gain information on your feelings about the prospect of an increase to your tuition fees, the amount of paid employment you are undertaking (and the consequent effect on your studies) and voluntary student unionism.

For us to ensure there are no fee in-

creases at the ANU we need your support!

Please visit <http://sa.anu.edu.au/> and fill out our 20 second survey today!!!

New Student representatives

Students' Association Elections 8 - 11 September. The importance of good student representation has never been greater so please be patient with those polling in Union court and ensure you vote to ensure the highest quality candidates are elected into office next year.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Your Vice-President Dave has been working tirelessly to ensure this new University policy is as student friendly as possible. Please ensure you have an understanding of how these academic terms relate to your

personal study. See the Executive report for more information and check out our website for a copy of the policy.

Staff/Student Symposiums

Your chance to have a say about what is good, bad and indifferent about your Faculty. Times listed on our new website (<http://sa.anu.edu.au/>): Please make sure you attend and have your say! Contact sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au for more info.

Do you work or have family responsibilities?

I am currently drafting a policy on Undergraduate Work, Study and Family Responsibilities with the ANU Equity and Diversity Department. Please keep sending in your comments! Your contributions have been terrific thus far but please keep dropping me emails outlining the pressures you face at uni today: sa.president@anu.edu.au Remember, the more the merrier!

Second Hand Text Books

Don't forget the Students' Association has second hand text books for sale. Please check out our collection upstairs or visit our listings on line at www.secondhand4students.com and save big \$\$\$!



Politics in the Pub

Make sure you're free on the 15th of October for the Students' Association second inaugural Politics in the Pub evening. Confirmed speakers include Jenny Macklin (Deputy leader of the Opposition) and Ian Chubb (ANU Vice-Chancellor). More to follow!

All the best and keep in touch (and don't forget to fill out the survey!!!),

Mocca
Regular Office Hours:
Monday 2pm - 3pm
Wednesday 11am - 12pm
All appointments welcome, after working hours if necessary.

Do You Want to Pay Higher Fees and HECS?

The Students' Association is, in conjunction with the Postgraduate and Research Students' Association and the ANU Staff Union (NTEU), conducting a campus wide on-line survey starting in Week 8 to gauge your feelings on the proposed Higher Education reforms.

Please note this survey is not a political exercise but rather it seeks to gain information on your feelings about the prospect of an increase to your tuition fees, the amount of paid employment you are undertaking (and the consequent effect on your studies) and voluntary student unionism.

For us to ensure there are no fee increases at the ANU we need your support!

**Please visit <http://sa.anu.edu.au/>
and fill out our 20 second survey today!!!**

High Crimes



Your Education Department educates...

Congratulations to the students across the country that participated in the National Day of Action on Wednesday 27 August. Thousands of students protested in Sydney and Melbourne, the University of Adelaide had a very prominent protest when Alexander Downer visited their campus, and it was terrific to see protests at both the ANU and UC. Alexander Downer's attempt to dismiss protesters as iferal, lefty students fell hopelessly short under the weight of numbers of participants.

The protest came at a critical time, with the need to pressure the parliament greater than ever, as the Nelson legislation prepares to be introduced to the House of Reps in the next sitting in September. At the time of writing, the specific content of the bills is unknown to us, but we've seen plenty of indication that it won't be friendly.

Students' Association elections are also just around the corner (week 8). Check out the candidates pages in this issue. I encourage all students to take an active interest in determining who the next crop of Students' Association reps will be, and get out and vote. It is crucial that representatives next year are people who will be active in opposing attacks to higher education, and attacks on student and staff unions. So, as annoying as everyone usually finds elections, please make an effort to vote. Correa McKenzie has been endorsed by the Education Department to be Education Officer next year so I specifically encourage you to vote for her.

The Education Department meets every Tuesday at 1pm in the Students' Association building. For more information contact sa.education@anu.edu.au.



Hey Queersters!

Loud and Queer!

The Sexuality Department has been very busy lately, but it's now mostly over and your amazingly overworked Sexuality Officer should soon be able to relax a bit. Rodney Croome's lecture on the 18th August was very successful - he is a great speaker and he spoke on some interesting points about the state of queer activism in Australia.

The Sexual health, Testing, Referral and Information Project (STRIP) at the ANU is now also over, but was a huge success, with many students from all over the place taking advantage of the free and confidential screenings from Sexually Transmitted Infections. They're now talking about doing STRIP here twice every year now. So be on the look out first semester next year. If you missed out, drop into the Sexuality Department to grab information about places you can get tested in Canberra.

The Annual Jellybabies Ball on the 30th August was a fabulous night. Congratulations to the fantastic Jellybabies Committee, particularly Kirstin and Dominic for organising a great event. They've proven that the Jellybabies Ball is definitely the best ball of the season!

I'm going to go and have a bex and a good lie down.

David Mills
Sexuality Officer
sexdep@anu.edu.au
612 58514

The Powers That Be: A word from your Executive

Hi Everyone,



It's almost that time of the year again! With the elections coming up in 2 weeks time, the union court will once again be bustling with activity in no time. As we near the end of our term in office, the Executive of the SA looks forward to the induction of new blood and consequently a new injection of energy into all of our activities. Please get out and vote and help your SA be the best it can be!

Lately, the advent of an increase in university fees has been a major concern for the Students' Association. To know more about how the rise in University school fees might affect you contact our President Mocca at sa.president@anu.edu.au who will be more than happy to let you in on the reform.

Starting in Week 8, our intrepid president and Executive team will be initiating a consultative period for you to tell the executive what you think about the hike in fees. PLEASE VISIT US AT <http://sa.anu.edu.au/> AND FILL OUT OUR 20 SECOND HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY!!!

Lastly, here's a note from the Vice-President, Dave Kelly:

'The Academic and Honesty and Plagiarism Code was passed by the Education Committee last week, it is very important that you make yourself aware of what constitutes academic dishonesty (see the Academic Skills and Learning Centre) and the new appeal procedure available if accused of plagiarising etc. The university is working towards a consistent approach for special examinations for disadvantaged students, any comments: sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au. Staff/Student forums are quickly coming up, please come and enjoy free pizza if you have a bone to pick.'

Work hard, play hard, live life to the max,
Your SA Executive

Women's Department

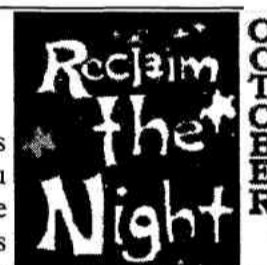
Well as there was only one nomination for women's officer next year Congratulations Amanda. You can read about how fantastic Amanda is for the job on page thirteen? By the time Woroni comes out Women in Education week will be over. I hope everyone (both men and women) attended at least one event and had a blast, either by just participating and/or picking up some useful knowledge along the way.

Now we need to move on and think about Reclaim the Night. Reclaim the night occurs on the last Friday in October every year (yes it is Halloween this year, I know, I know). It came about due to a Judge's decision on a rape case that the woman 'had asked for it' because she wore a short skirt. It is also a response to police advice (that has since been changed) that women should stay locked in their homes to avoid violence.

Since then Reclaim the Night occurs in every capital city in Australia and in many Westernised countries around the world. Women are here and we will not be shut up, put away or told what we can and can't wear. Join the fight to Reclaim the Night!

To get involve contact the women's department in the SA on 59868 or e-mail sa.womens@anu.edu.au

Trish Gray
Women's Officer



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34: Everyone's a Critic

37: Cultish

38: Sport

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opening hours



DIVISION OF INFORMATION

THE PALINDROMIC CIMORDNILAPEHT

September 2003 - Using unpronounceable titles and through it discouraging reading aloud and reducing noise pollution.



Arnold Schwarzenegger voted World's Sexiest Man. Not voted Governor of California.



Etymologist claims sentence is too harsh.

Skateboarders Decide To Measure In Radians Rather Than Degrees

There has been a huge shake-up of the skateboarding fraternity around the world last week, as its members, who number in the millions and are composed primarily of male youths, changed from measuring tricks in degrees to measuring in radians.

David William, of the Skateboarders Association, says the change will reduce the ever-increasing number of digits that have to be used to describe tricks.

"First it was the 360, then the 720, now we're into 4 figures - it just takes too long to write on the page," he said. "As pi radians equals 180 degrees, this change should see the trick degree expressed as more concise fractions, leaving skateboarders to concentrate on their tricks and trying to achieve the elusive 19/9 pi olly."

David's friend, William Granthin, said, "Right on David." "Radians, dude," he continued.



The surely-delinquent pi-loving skateboarder youth David William skipping class to waste his time doing a 23pi/8 grind.

"Sexed Up" WMD Dossier Claims Intensify

The uproar over the British government's dossier on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction increased yesterday with fresh claims this week by France and Russia that British PM Tony Blair "sexed up" his dossier to try and fool the international community.

"It's all there in black and white, and in some parts colour," said the French Minister for Speaking, Jean-Pierre Diputs, in French, which was then translated into English for this newspaper so it could be understood by a majority of readers.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that Mr. Blair has 'sexed up' his dossier," M. Diputs said. "You only need look at page 3, where there is full frontal nudity of two females and one male, and the sexual positions displayed on page 19, which are only remotely linked to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, for evidence of this."

M. Diputs' deputy, Michellee Mintug, expressed a similar view; "The constant references to sexual acts rather than weapons is another giveaway sign," she said.

A spokesman for Mr. Blair, Tony Eslaf, said he found the dossier a "very informative, stimulating and enjoyable read" and that "the amount of sexual references in the dossier was not unusual among publications in the UK, particularly in ones that relate to WMD's." For pictures found inside the 'sexed-up' dossier, refer to last month's Woroni.

Mal Colston Faces Funeral Rorts Uproar

Embattled former Liberal senator Mal Colston is facing further charges of corruption and rorting of Australian taxpayers today, two weeks after his death.

In an announcement made by Labor backbencher Sarah Frypton, it was revealed Mr. Colston used a Commonwealth-funded car to move from the crematorium to the cemetery after his funeral last Thursday.

While Ms. Frypton has heard the protests from both Liberals and members of her own party that Mr. Colston should be left in peace, she only seemed to be focussing on Mr. Colston himself.

"I don't care what he says or doesn't say," Ms. Frypton said. "If he thinks he can continue to rort the Australian people he's got another thing coming."

When asked what he thought of Mr. Colston's alleged terminal illness, Ms. Frypton was equally hard-hitting.

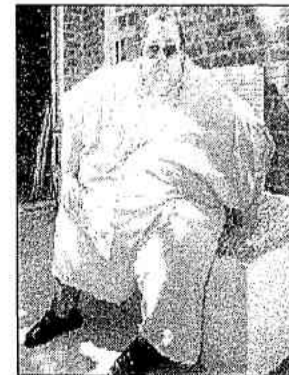
"You only have to look at Christopher Skase's antics to see that people will pretend anything to get themselves out of trouble," she said.

Don't Read This Article

Thankyou.

Obese Man Doesn't Work, Rest Or Play

In a blow for the Mars confectionery company, an obese American man who eats a Mars bar every day has found he doesn't work rest or play, but rather suffers serious health problems such as stroke and blood clots. Daniel Sandbern, 38, of Montgomery, Alabama, believed the sugar and fat in Mars bars would keep him healthy and enable him to labour, lull and recreate, but instead he has found himself unemployed, unable to fit through his door to go outside to play and unable to rest due to the fat that inhibits his breathing when he is asleep. A spokesperson for Mars confectionery said that Mars bars encourage figurative, as opposed to literal, work, rest and play, as well as eating more Mars bars.



A Mars a day helps you become adipose, corpulent and obese, as this fat slob, Daniel Sandbern, found out.

US Increase Aid To Liberia

In a move which has been heard of by charitable and refugee groups, the US has increased monetary aid to the war-ravaged west African country of Liberia. The aid, which totals 30 billion dollars, will be paid to the needy country over the next 3 years.

US Minister for Distributing Money, Janine Single, outlined the details of the plan yesterday;

"Consistent with domestic spending, the money will go to the Liberian Space Shuttle program," she said, "a program which aims to send a shuttle to explore the interior of the ice blocks that make up the outer rings of Saturn's 14th moon Yio's satellite, in 2017."

"This program will provide a goal for the people of Liberia to find food and live for the next 14 years," said another US spokesperson, Jackson Loplock. "For centuries," he continues, "humankind has yearned to discover the composition of Yio's satellite's outer rings, and this very expensive mission will provide assistance and aid in that regard. It really is a good day for the developing world and Yio."

Man Annoyed at Constant Invasion of Privacy

Melbourne - St. Kilda resident John Citizen has spoken out this week about the constant invasions of privacy he faces every day from people who use his name and details as examples on everything from forms to conversation starters.

Everywhere I look they're giving out my age, birthday, credit card details, address - I've had to move from 123 Smith St. to 456 John St. to Smithtown to Sydney all in the space of 90 days," he said. "Just because my tax file number and drivers licence number are formed of consecutive numbers, people think they can tell anyone."

"It used to be my good friends Joe Bloggs and Jane Smith, that they picked on, but Joe and Jane spoke out and had to go into hiding. Now they've decided to turn on me," he continued.

Mr. Citizen said he was considering changing his name to John Permanent Resident to reduce his problems.



The innocent-looking forms that prove a nightmare for John Citizen.

Satire Writer Finally Can't Think of Excuse for Pointless Headline; Decides to be Honest With Readers

Woroni Censured

Chris Blaxland moved a motion of censure on Woroni. He especially objected to Frug and Paranoid.

He said that he did not object to obscenity, but that Frug was of schoolboy level, and not worthy of a student paper. Paranoid, he added, was puerile, and he felt that the general level of editorial quality needed drastic improvement.

The motion was passed with one dissenting vote.

Pink Floyd Children Who "Don't Need No Education" Realise Use Of Double Negative Evidence To Contrary

The pupils from the fourth form music class at Islington Green School, London, who sang on the Pink Floyd song "Brick in the Wall" have this week, 30 years on, realised the folly of their ways in stating "we don't need no education."

The students, at a reunion for Pink Floyd child singers, realised their use of a double negative in the particular line evidenced their drastic lack of education, and also their lower-class and impoverished status. This inferiority was further displayed by their needless repetition of the line "all in all you're just another brick in the wall."

The grown-up students agreed that the best way for them to learn proper grammar was through thought control, something which they had also erroneously thought they didn't need.

Feelgood Movie Fails To Contain Crying, Patchwork Quilt Making

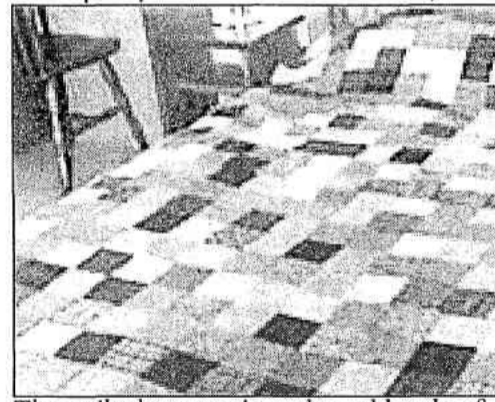
There was upheaval in living rooms across the country, and city, yesterday, as Channel 7's movie, "The Women of South-Western Virginia County", promoted as a "feelgood classic", failed to contain hours of communal crying and quilt making, and actually made viewers feel good.

Margaret Sen, from the group 'Lovers of Compound Word Movie Descriptions' said the description was grossly misleading.

"Everyone knows 'feelgood' means the movie won't actually make you feel good, but is a euphemism for patchwork quilt making. I really need some handy patchwork hints," she said.

James Mitchell, from Channel 7, explained the strange omission;

"The absence of quilt making was due to the fact that we realised no-one actually liked 'feelgood' movies, except quilt manufacturers," he said.



The quilt that wasn't made and bottle of tears that weren't cried in the "feelgood" movie in question.



Historical

Woroni - 1966

Imagine Frug being of schoolboy level and Paranoid puerile - not with names like that, surely? Speaking of interesting names, Gregory's Ford in the City must be the best place to buy the new 'turbo-smooth' Holden - it's a supercharged level of smoothness.



best place to buy

NEW TURBO-SMOOTH

HOLDEN

MORT ST; BRADDON 4 0286

FLINDERS WAY, MANUKA 9 0131

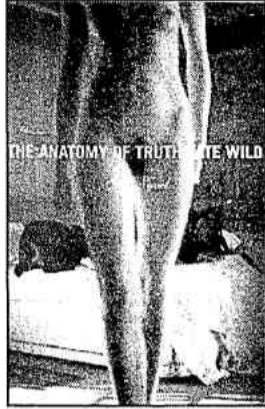


Everybody has their own opinion. Holding it back hurts so bad, but we had the same opinion, because:

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC!

Reviewed This Month:

CDs\Powderfinger - Vulture Street; Salmonella Dub - One Drop East; Marilyn Manson - The Golden Age Of Grotesque; 8 Foot Sativa - Hate made me
 BOOKS\The Anatomy of Truth - Kate Wild; Sellelevision - Augusten Burroughs; Weapons of Mass Deception - Stephanie Mannok and Bowen Lafayette; Dead Ringer - Lisa Scottoline; Supoena Colada - Mark Dawson;
 FILMS\Takeaway - The Kitchen Hand - Anthony Telford



The Anatomy of Truth
 By Kate Wild, published by Picador Press
 Review by Lucy Clynes

This is Kate Wild's first book and she appears to be caught in the wave of female writers writing about sexual oppression in country Australia. Wild is similar in style to Kate Jennings or Kate Grenville (whose writing is of the same genre). She identifies beautifully with her female characters and captures their experiences well though, like Jennings and Grenville, tends to overlook her male characters or misrepresent them. This book is unusual in technique because there are two climaxes, one very close to the beginning and one very close to the end. This technique, while interesting, does lend itself to a lull in the middle section of the book, right at the time when the reader's attention needs to be held. In some places, the writing is self-conscious and labored and in some parts it just does not make sense. With that said, I did read the whole book in three hours but the ending is disappointing because Wild tries to be illusive and clever and leave the reader guessing but really it just doesn't make any sense. I feel like writing to her and saying, "What do the last two chapters mean?" This book is challenging reading, it requires concentration and perhaps a female perspective to really gain from it but it's worth it. I look forward to Wild's next novel.

Powderfinger - Vulture Street
 Review by Thom Mackey



I must confess: I don't really like Powderfinger that much. I used to rock out to D.A.F. and the rest in high school, but their releases since then haven't really grabbed me, the band having (in my eyes, at least) "sold out" and "gone all emo." Nobody else seemed to mind though, and they've come quite far since their early days. Keeping up their "supergroup" status must not be an easy job, but these boys are certainly trying their hardest - Vulture Street is truly a great album. The album keeps up a consistently hard-hitting pace and as I listen to this as I type I struggle not to hit the keys in rhythm. Bernard Fanning's vocals have come back to their less-whiny roots and he can sing again without sounding like he's damn sad all the time. The rest of the band provide a stellar performance, with the percussionist shining especially - doesn't let one beat drop and the use of beats that aren't drums make the album sound interesting and a step ahead of all the other Aussie pop-guitar-rock bands out there. There's no doubt that Powderfinger have grown since those days of year 8, with this album sounding much more mature than their first two releases. I for one am happy to hear that although they may not be quite as ear-grabbing and groundbreaking as they once were, their music has only gotten better. Their songwriting has almost come full circle, with the overall feeling of this release sounding much rockier than Internationalist or Odyssey Number Five, although they've kept that not-quite-rock feel of those two albums. Vulture Street is both accessible and enjoyable, and most certainly doesn't dissappoint. I'll listen to this one again.

POWDERFINGER COMPETITION!

Wanna interview Powderfinger's Bernard Fanning? Well here's your big opportunity.



Woroni and Grok are inviting you to unleash the rock journo within by coming up with the tough questions for Powderfinger singer Bernard Fanning.

From world politics to the politics of rock, we're after your Top 3 questions.

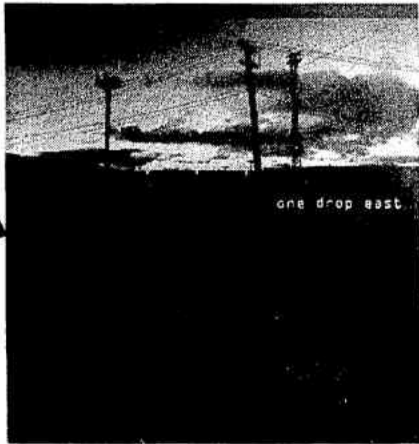
We'll select two winners who come up with the 3 most original questions for Bernard. Two winners will each score a double pass to see Powderfinger on their 'Live on Vulture Street' tour on Sunday 14th December - Royal Theatre Canberra

Winners will also score a copy of Powderfinger's new album 'Vulture Street' and will see their name in print when Bernard Fanning sends through his answers.

Email your 3 questions as a Rich Text File attachment to woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au with the subject line "Powderfinger Questions," or drop them into the contributions box outside our office.

A feature containing replies to the winning questions will appear in the next issue of Woroni. Remember: Nobody EVER enters these competitions so you're pretty damn likely to win if you do!!!

One Drop East - Salmonella Dub
 Review by Adam Brodie-McKenzie

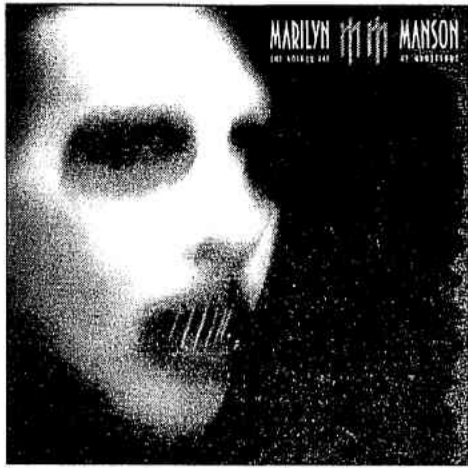


I have always heard good things about Salmonella Dub from my electronica buddies. Not being a huge fan of electronica myself, my friends had always informed me that they were far more accessible (and melodic) than most. Salmonella are not only accessible to non-electronica ears but are also down right enjoyable. The only word to explain their dub stylings (A mix of jazz, funk and techno) is cool. Far more than just thumping dance beats, their music moves between light hearted Reggae, dark electro-ballads, funk and more traditional dance music. Longtime and their single, Dancehall Girl, are quite Rastafarian while tracks like Nu Steppa give dancers a chance to strut their funky stuff with more traditional dance stylings. Tracks like Dub Survivor and Simmer Down are far more chilled out with a laid back beat, slow synth melody and brass harmonies. However, at the same time they create a foreboding tension which leaves the listener waiting for a release that never comes. The album also comes with a bonus DVD with a video clip of Dancehall Girl and an 18 track visual remix mash up that goes for over an hour which is more than just a little trippy and includes a remix by Regurgitator's Ben Ely. Their music is varied yet at the same time all their tracks are in sync with each other creating a solid album. I would recommend "One Drop East" to anyone who is planning to have a chilled out lounge party.

Everyone's A Critic

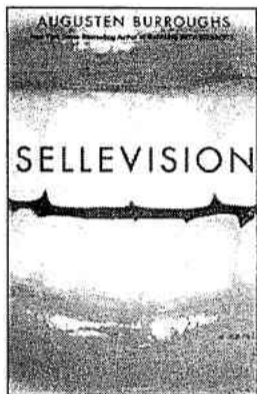
Do you want to pay higher fees and HECS?

Fill out the 20 second Higher Education survey: <http://sa.anu.edu.au>



Marilyn Manson - The Golden Age of Grotesque
Review by James Law

Before listening to this album there are some simple preparations you should make. Firstly cover your room in the finest black velvet, then light 50 candles, dim your lights and cover yourself in fresh goats blood. Marilyn Mansons new record "The Golden Age of Grotesque" has finally arrived and like his previous albums it is not at all what you expected. The one major noticeable difference on this recording is the pace. The tempo has been pulled right back, giving the album a morbid ballad kind of feel. Thanks to this change of pace the whole album flows nicely from song to song and finishes up with a very dark cover of "Tainted Love". Another noticeable difference from this album and its predecessors is the stronger use of keyboards, synthesisers and sampling giving a lot of songs a kind of 80's Eurythmics and New Order feel. Don't worry though, the glam-goth rock style that the band is famous for is still there, and mixed with these new elements it makes for some interesting listening. As the same with previous albums though it is obvious from the start that this is not a cd for everyone. Hip-hop fans will hate it, rap fans will punch you if you like it, tech freaks will ask to speed it up, metal heads will beg for more guitar and pop fans... well you can sod off. (and don't forget the goats blood).



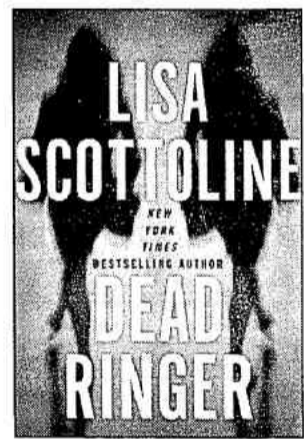
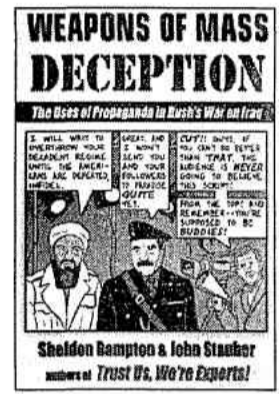
Sellevision - Augusten Burroughs
Picador
Review by Katherine Urbanski

This is a novel for those who take their comedy black. In Sellevision Burroughs has satirised home shopping specifically, and modern western life generally. Consumerism here is at its absolute worst, with Sellevision collections dedicated to Princess Diana and JFK Junior, 'Jewellery of Faith', and the usual electric egg scramblers, antique mannequins and knock off Native American Artefacts. The story begins with the prime-time screening of a penis, during a toys for Tots segment - of course - and goes from there.

The cover quote is provided by Bret Easton Ellis - which says it all really. Burroughs humour is indeed comparable to Ellis', or filmmaker Todd Solonz's. The characters are trying to sell an image of perfection, despite the fact that their lives are screwed up in an assortment of bizarre ways. However, the characters here are not as relentlessly tormented her as they are in *The Rules of Attraction*, *Glamorama*, or *Happiness* - which makes for a lighter read. That said, Burroughs gleefully writes about drug addiction, porn, adultery, teen sex and stalking. He also writes in more subtle, yet equally disturbing, indicators that life is by no means perfect or controllable. For instance, uber-host Peggy Jean's attempt to set her son's a good example by giving "The Homeless" money goes awry when the bum throws the quarter back at her and calls her a c**t. Sellevision is a fun, frothy book, with just a little bite.

Weapons of Mass Deception: The Use of Propaganda in Bush's War
Stephanie Mannok and Bowen Lafayette

This book is paperback proof that the American administration has shrouded the public in a web of lies when it comes to the War in Iraq. The book outlines how much of 'Shrub' (George Bush for those of you with little street knowledge), over in the peace-loving United States of America sold the war to his fun loving people. The book provides an indepth analysis of the marketing exercise that was the war in Iraq. It shows how the same people employed to sell us weight loss products or steak knives (that believe it or not folks, can cut through leather shoes) were employed to market the war in Iraq. The only difference is that in this campaign the public relations specialists have omitted the 'but wait there's more' slogan. Neither the Shrub Administration nor the media has told us, as this book tries to that there really is more - that the war on Iraq is part of a much larger plan to re-shape the Middle East. If you're interested in 'Big Lie' tactics, 'doublespeak' and politically forged documents this book might be for you (or the Political Science essay you're writing for Michael McKinley!). If however, you're over America bashing or you are the leader of the Free World, perhaps your time would be better spent doing what those two infamous cartoon characters, Pinky and The Brain, are doing. "What shall we do tonight Brain?" "The same thing we do every night Pinky. Try to take over the world!"

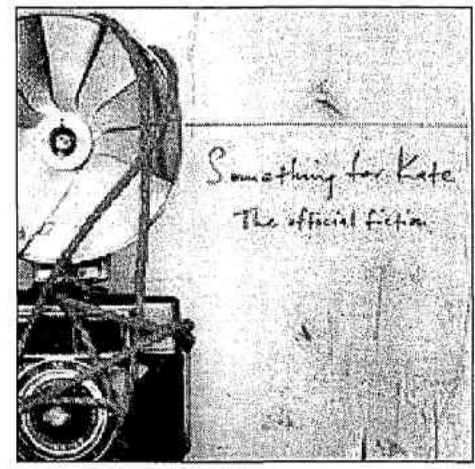


Dead Ringer
Lisa Scottoline
Review by Jodie Smith

Bennie runs an all female law firm that is on the brink of bankruptcy. She's independent, stubborn and determined to get through this on her own. Her saviour appears as a class action she looks almost certain and if not determined to head. Meanwhile her criminal underground twin sister, Alice is back in town cunningly putting Bennie on the wrong side of the law. At first this book seems like a cliché legal thriller, but advantageously lacks the predictable element common in this genre. It also lacks the tacky twist and the repulsing love scene/s although the author obviously could not overlook the love interest. This book builds suspense that never really comes. Surprisingly, for me, this did not seem to hinder but more enhance the quality of the story. With a miniscule six out of the 339 pages donning the tacky token unrealistic action thriller scene, this book surpassed all of my expectations. With a female author and protagonist, *Dead Ringer* is in parts a feminine overdose, which could repulse some. This book was not necessarily a chick book, but in a male dominant genre in terms of author and protagonist, call me ignorant but it was at times, a little too much to swallow. On the whole this was a good book. With realistic characters and an easy to follow yet enticing story. If legal thrillers are your cup of tea you'll love this one!

The Official Fiction - Something For Kate
Review by Jodie Smith

When I first heard "The Official Fiction" in its entirety I felt that it was different from *Something For Kate's* previous 3 albums. There was a distinct style of music they had presented in the past that to me simply wasn't there. The album seemed more produced, less rock and used a more diverse range of instruments. After listening to it a few times I realized that it is fundamentally SFK. It follows on from their previous work but has an element of progression tied in. The first single, *de ja vu*, follows directly in the footsteps of "Echolalia," probably the reasoning behind it being the first single. There is a more diverse selection of songs such as Track 11 which has a somewhat country music undertone, and a more prominent use of instruments such as the cello and the violin. Consequently, the album is less rock, and the use of the bass and drums is more mellow than in the past. Critics have said that Dempsey has branched out and exhibited a more confident attitude than ever before and I can only agree. Longtime SFK fans could be disappointed but it still has its roots in the old stuff, just more mellow. As with all their albums give it a shot, it will probably grow on you. Those who jumped on board at "Echolalia" won't be disappointed. And as for me, it gets better each time I listen to it, but I still think "Beautiful Sharks" is my favourite SFK album.



THE SHIT HEAP

Welcome to the Hotel de Shit. Have you read/seen/heard/experienced something that was so shit that the campus deserves to be warned about it? Reviews are welcome on anything from bad songs to bad driving.

This is where bad product and good publicity go to die.

email your reviews to: woroni_articles@student.anu.



8 Foot Sativa -Hate Made Me
Review by Adrian Kolbagen

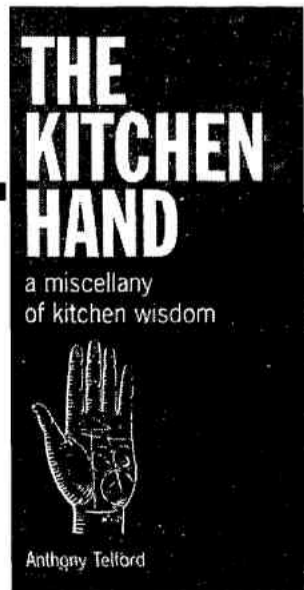
In the spirit of promoting trans-Tasman relations, the decision was made this month to review the debut album 'Hate Made Me', by New Zealand rising stars, 8 Foot Sativa. With the majority of tracks here clocking in under four minutes in length and being both simple in structure and content, 8 Foot Sativa are clearly aiming for immediate impact. While there's certainly nothing wrong with the simple approach, a band attempting it must be powerful enough musically to avoid sounding clichéd. With this debut release, 8 Foot Sativa have sadly fallen on the wrong side of the perennial clever/stupid divide. While the band tries to sound angry and emotional, it all comes off as contrived, and Justin Niessen's vocal barking does not help matters at all. The riffs themselves simply are not good, interesting, or original enough to make songs like this work, and the use of the occasional melodic break pilfered from a melodic Swedish death metal album certainly does not exonerate the band. The lyrics also add to the lowest common denominator flavour of 'Hate Made Me', especially on the inane 'Cocktease', which bottoms out with the annoying repetition of the phrase 'you suck'. Overall, this album is probably not quite as bad as I have made out here (the band are certainly tight and professional), its simply that it is so ridiculously generic and played out by now that it has no impact. Apparently, 8 Foot Sativa are big in New Zealand. Let's not make the same mistake here.



Takeaway
Marc Gracie
Review by Fern Beavis

I love Aussie comedies: They're light hearted, easily related to, and always have links to some point in our past to make us connect with either the characters, events or settings. Takeaway had a promising beginning. Opening with a historical scene in which the method of taking food away from an establishment was invented, and the dim sim was born, this film seemed set to take the piss out of the hamburger, the chip and the content of a dim sim.

However, what instead unfolded was a somewhat lacklustre film about rivalry between two local takeaway shops and a national burger chain, Burgies, with very few moments that sparked from originality or real comedy. Set upon a small and quiet suburban street, two takeaway shops separated by a butcher are fierce rivals. Tony (Vince Colosimo) does fish: his business strives on pleasing the customer and adopting values which look after the customer, from the rotation of the drinks fridge to an assortment of complimentary. Trev (Stephen Curry) on the other hand, does burgers: Unhygienically prepared, dripping with grease, and adopting a very casual approach to the business, Trev's only point of superiority over Tony is based upon his food concepts: dim sim on a stick or calamari burger, anyone? The shops' owners and their 'managers' Tony's cousin Sonja (Rose Byrne) and Trev's pick-up from Centrelink, Dave (Nathan Phillips), are united when a chain burger joint opens right next door. With a highly ambitious manager and his pimply, geeky prodigy, the joint sparks a feud between the same-old local takeaway joints and the perky Burgies, with its drive through service, jingles and mascots. The finale was too predictable and too unrealistic, and not particularly funny, as was the majority of the film. Regardless, the gags that did work had me laughing out loud. Typically Aussie in its lighthearted approach, this film didn't quite meet the standards I'd expect from a film with such a promising concept. It did, however, provide me with some classic quotes and a relaxed 90 minutes of laid back humour.



The Kitchen Hand: a miscellany of kitchen wisdom
By Anthony Telford, published by Allen and Unwin
Review by Lucy Clynes

After Stephanie Alexander produced the definitive encyclopaedia of cooking, *The Cook's Companion*, which anyone who is vaguely interested in food already owns or will get from their aunty next Christmas, I don't know why you would bother even trying to capture her market. *The Kitchen Hand* is a dictionary of food with explanations of various ingredients. It tells the reader where they came from and occasionally how to store them, but unlike Stephanie Alexander, Telford doesn't say what other foods the ingredients go with or provide any recipes. I put this book to the test by looking up the most obscure ingredients I could think of. It passed the test on the Asian foods front, though this might be because I don't know a lot about Asian cooking so my idea of obscure is probably fairly moderate. For European ingredients, I found *The Kitchen Hand* to be lacking. It makes me wonder who Telford's target audience is, why would someone who was so disinterested in food that they needed to look up brown rice or mesclun want to buy a dictionary of foods? Why would someone who was interested in food buy a book on food that didn't contain any recipes? This book does contain some useful tips, such as how to prepare a cheese board or how to stop a cake from cracking when baked. It might be useful reading for someone who's about to go out to dinner with a whole lot of foodies but in terms of cooking, if there aren't any recipes or ideas on how to use the ingredients and some of the ingredients you might need advice on aren't even in the book, chances are you won't be turning to *The Kitchen Hand* in times of culinary crisis.



Subpoena Colada

Mark Dawson
Review by Marc Chou

It's, indeed, quite refreshing, amongst some of the required readings put to us, to read a book which does not necessitate the, oft futile, activity of resorting to a dictionary that, ultimately anyways, does not contain the damn 'word' you're hoping to comprehend. But, and unfortunately so for Mark Dawson's *Subpoena Colada*; what's more refreshing, in these intellectual days, is reading a book void of anything that could possibly be ascribed as good. It's a big call, but it's my call and I'll gladly stand by it. I'll gladly stand by it because I know, for the vast majority of the learned ANU population (again, an even BIGGER call), *Subpoena*

Colada will remain unread (and thus I will be unchallenged on this matter); and rightly so. For, though the adventures of Daniel Tate's life, as a London media lawyer, his forays with second-tiered celebs and his 'dependence', may interest some, it really dis-interested me, greatly so. It gave me a glimpse of...something; well, more accurately, the deleterious effects of profession, of drugs and alcohol and, more generically, of modern life and society; you know, the usual. And herein is where I take, particular, issue with it. Indeed, such accounts, of issues I think the book deals with, are FINE, and should be encouraged more widely, but not in a way which makes us indifferent to the subject-matter(s); because, if it does this, it has committed a crime far worse than 'fictional garbage'. To end with a confession, which will most inevitably undermine most of what I said - pages 1-249 were terrible (as I wondered constantly...how long till the end!; what on earth is the point of this book?; being allowed to keep this book as recompense for reviewing it is one unfair trade-off!), so pages 250-447 remains unread. And rightly so. [BTW. The little twist which concluded my review sets the scene for those who do actually reach page 447; as one review I read said something about there being a twist at the end...oooh!!!, something to look forward to!]

Le Heap de merde



H. P Lovecraft

Sick and tired of the same old serial killers? Want at least 10% more tentacles, and up to 20% more fungi from other planets? Feel like some horror that's a bit more on the cosmic side? Then perhaps a taste of the somewhat different literary delights of H. P Lovecraft is just the thing you need.

Never heard of him? Born Howard Phillips Lovecraft, 'ol long face was a prolific and influential horror author from the early 20th century, whose unique blend of gothic tales and unspeakable things has left an indelible mark upon not only the horror genre, but has extended its slimy feelers deep into the wider spectrum of the cult universe itself.

His biography alone reads like a gothic tragedy: living in Providence, Rhode Island, his father died of syphilis at a young age, while his mother, suffering neurosis, also died while he was young.

Whereas other authors of the time were writing the standard sort of horror fare, Lovecraft wrote in what has later been called cosmic or cumulative horror, not concerned with the little frights, but of the tiny earth...of elder worlds, of faint scratchings by weak humans into unfathomable abysses of the unknown.

Oh, that and madness. Madness is quite possibly the most commonly occurring thing within Lovecraft's body of work, along with bizarre creatures with uh, inventive names and characteristics. From a series of iridescent spheres known as Yog Sottho, to space-faring scientist fungus from the tenth planet, Lovecraft aims to please those with a taste for the weird (and perhaps a reasonably good sense of humour). Characters seem to go mad at the drop of a hat, and a lot of the time you can't blame em.

Even if you've never read anything by him, chances are you've come across something "inspired" by (read: extremely loosely based upon) his work. Lovecraft consistently wrote within a world he created, known collectively as the Cthulhu Mythos, (Cthulhu is sort of the Lovecraftian poster boy, as far as octopus headed ancient sleeping gods can be), and other writers have expanded upon this, with just about anything being thrown in. Ever seen the Evil Dead movies? The book in those movies, the Necronomicon, is one of Lovecraft's proud creations (although admittedly he was inspired by the Egyptian "Book of the Dead", and others, but which one of those sends you mad just by looking at it?). A string of sublimely awful other Lovecraftian movies exist too, from good-bad, such as Re-Animator or From Beyond, to just plain bad-bad, like The Unnameable or the bargain-basement special effects hell of The Necronomicon. Comics, music and films abound, filled with near-gratuitous references and stylings.

So with so much stuff out there, where to start on your ungodly decent into madness, despair and near unpronounceable names? Best bet is to stick with the originals, and pick up one of the fine omnibus' you can get these days, to complement your weekly reading with gratuitous tales of nightmarish things from the old days of earth, things that don't go bump but rather drip and squelch, and most probably send you insane.

- Brown Jenkins



Hamasaki Ayumi

It's true. I don't have dreams. How can I say it? I myself am a dream.

What is it about Japan that makes a phenomenon like Ayu possible? Is it just that Japanese pop artists don't bother to market themselves to a Western audience, choosing instead to spend their money saturating the Japanese market to a silly degree? Or is there something in the psychology of Japanese schoolgirls, geeky fanboys, lonely salarymen and everyone else that makes them love their pop music so unquestioningly? None of the answers I can come up with adequately explain why pop stars like Ayu, who's Western counterparts tend to sink without a trace after a few months at the top, maintain such a huge level of popularity for so long in Japan.

Japanese idol singers are much more than sexed-up teens singing about heartbreak and rebellion. As Time Asia puts it "Ayumi Hamasaki isn't just a pop star, she's a pop supernova." Perhaps not too much of an overstatement, considering the fact that you can't walk three metres in Japan without encountering some incarnation of her. She's sold more records in Japan than any other musical act for two years running. She's just released her thirtieth single, has had five original albums, two 'best' albums, and her record company (Avex Trax) owes no less than forty percent of it's profits to Ayu.

When it comes to companies and product lines, Ayu is prolific, to say the least. Her line of clothing, "MTRLG" (Material Girl) has it's own outlet in the heart of Tokyo's shopping district. Then there's the obligatory figurines known as "Ayupan," a sort of cross between Ayu and a panda (of course...). The Ayupan dolls are sold in their own stores across Japan, wearing outfits based on Ayu's concert wear. There's also the Ayupan dolls based on her dogs, and the Ayupan 3D animation clips that are shown across the country (but before we delve too far into that little piece of marketing brilliance, let's move on).

Ayu is the "face" of various companies and advertising campaigns: Tu-Ka moblies, Panasonic, Visee cosmetics & Hi-Chu candy just to name a few. (These ads are often quite amusing in that they involve little more than a shot of Ayu running around looking beautiful for a few seconds and then another shot of her saying the name of the company rather forcefully.) The Ayu PS2 game and touch-typing software have also been released.

To top it all off, she has her own variety TV show, "Ayu Ready?" Just one in a long line of Japanese variety television which rely on celebrity presence to guarantee ratings.

But I just can't stop wondering why this vaguely strange looking girl who sings about love and faith manages to hold an entire nation so transfixed. On the surface Ayu seems to be pretty much the same deal as we've seen a million times before. Then again, she does seem to have a lot more substance (dare I use that word in the context of pop music?), than her predecessors.

She's acutely aware of how transient her fame and fortune are, and the price she is paying for them. As she said in a recent interview: *It is necessary that I am viewed as a product. I am a product. The "Hi, this is Ayu" person on TV is the person I know they want to see. I understand it's my role to realize people's dreams. I'm okay with that so long as my songs are my own. No one can take my songs away from me. For instance, hundreds of people work at Avex. They work hard for me. I understand my words are not my own, that everything that comes out of my mouth affects them. But my songs are my own.*

While it's fairly difficult to use the term "tragic" in reference to people who earn enough money to feed a small country, there seems to me to be a certain tragedy about Hamasaki Ayumi. Her commitment to her work is nothing short of frightening (for example, stories of how she would scratch her own throat before singing in an attempt to make her voice sound "cuter," or her live performance schedule which has been known to overlap). On more than one occasion I found myself questioning her sanity after TV appearances where she seemed less than coherent...

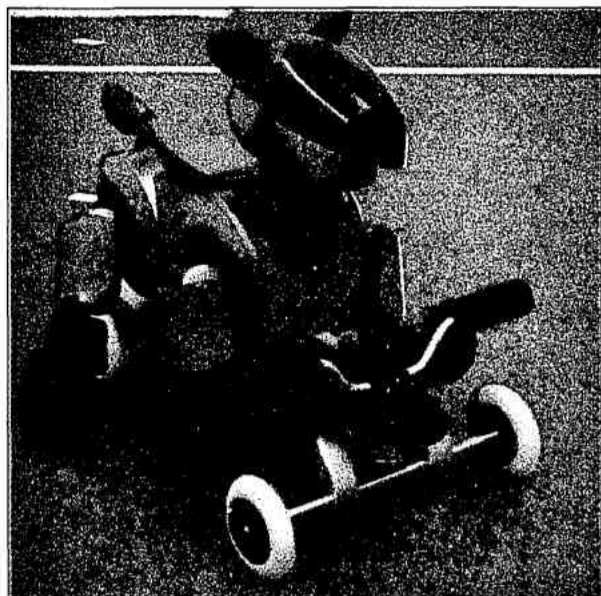
At this point in her career, it would be ludicrous to say Ayu is driven by a desire for more wealth or success. It seems the one thing keeping her going is a sense of duty to give back to her fans.

- Matt Rouch and Alice Allan



Cultish

The Press Gang let their sporty heads battle with American TV and the upcoming Judgement Day.



Above: Robot dogs will soon be coming with cargo pants as standard and entering the Xtreme Games.

Politics and Sport

It's Student Association election time at the ANU and the leaders of tomorrow are taking their first step on the road of political mediocrity. For the 7 odd years I have been here the same weedy boys and not DEAD ugly girls (Charles Angels!) have been running for office. The ANU once had a proud tradition of its Student Association office bearers continuing on to political career or to depose governments in Pacific Island nations. Bill Stefaniak, Sitiveni Rambuka, and George Spate have all been office bearers. They have also been members of the ANU first 15 Rugby team. A conspiratorial friend of mine put forward the theory that the ANU rugby team was once a secret government training ground for the purposes of training agent provocateurs, a School of the Australias if you will...

The Amazing Race

The modern athlete is supposed to embody the ideals of competitive sportsmanship, fair play and the pursuit of excellence. Nowhere are these ideals less apparent than in my favourite reality TV show, The Amazing Race, and yet for my money, it is represents the apogee the modern athlete. The Amazing Race involves 12 teams of 2 Americans of various degrees of vacuousness (this season there is a couple who have been dating for 12 years, status, virgins) sent on a race around the world. At the end of each leg a team is eliminated,

the last team standing wins. The element of this contest that makes it equal, if not superior, too many modern sporting contests is the complete inability of the participants to do anything in the real world. Americans are much like athletes; they are raised in an environment akin to a

total institution. In America individuals are raised to compete, to 'win' and not much else is considered important. Thus, whilst contestants wax lyrical about 'being here to win' they are often stopped short by the completion of menial tasks such as filling their cars up with the right petrol or finding the right country to fly to. This is the embodiment of the modern professional athlete and probably one of the reasons we love to see them inflict so much pain on themselves, for success or failure. The Amazing Race is a sport, the greatest sport; because it enables us to watch arrogant stupid people humiliate themselves twice a week, and then lose. It would be great to see a reality TV show in which an athletic team, say the American synchronized swimming squad, has to get to Athens, by themselves, with no coaches, managers or team secretaries. Or, the Amazing Race should be an exhibition sport at the Athens Olympics. Perhaps the last leg of the race would involve running into the Olympic stadium: the 'roadblock' would be lighting the Olympic flame.

Danger, Will Robinson, Danger!

The robots are coming, and they are coming to a sports field near you. Sony Corporation have claimed that an all robot team will win the FIFA World Cup by the year 2050. Me, I'm not betting on it. Simply because real soccer playing robots will fall over and disintegrate the moment another soccer player comes within 5 meters of them. However, there are already



Above: The changing room pep talk takes on a new meaning.

robot sporting competitions. The most well known of these is Robo-Cup, a form of soccer played by robots, although with less complicated rules. Not possible you say. And I tend to agree. If you made soccer less complicated they would have to rename it "Waiting for a bus". But seriously bipeds, there are competitions, and these are played by robots.

In fact there are a number of competitions, with their own little quirks. Probably the most curious one is the four-legged league. The robots in this competition are the Sony Annoying-Yappy-Dog-Bots(tm) which scamper around the field trying to knock a ball into the net. These robots have become quite sophisticated, being able to identify the ball and players on their own teams, while at the same time avoiding the urge to hump the referees' legs or spending all their time sniffing the butt of the dog next to them. The only real problem with this form of robot soccer is that matches tend to be interrupted by little robot humans running out onto the field.

Other forms of the game use the more traditional robot form. No not the ones armed with death

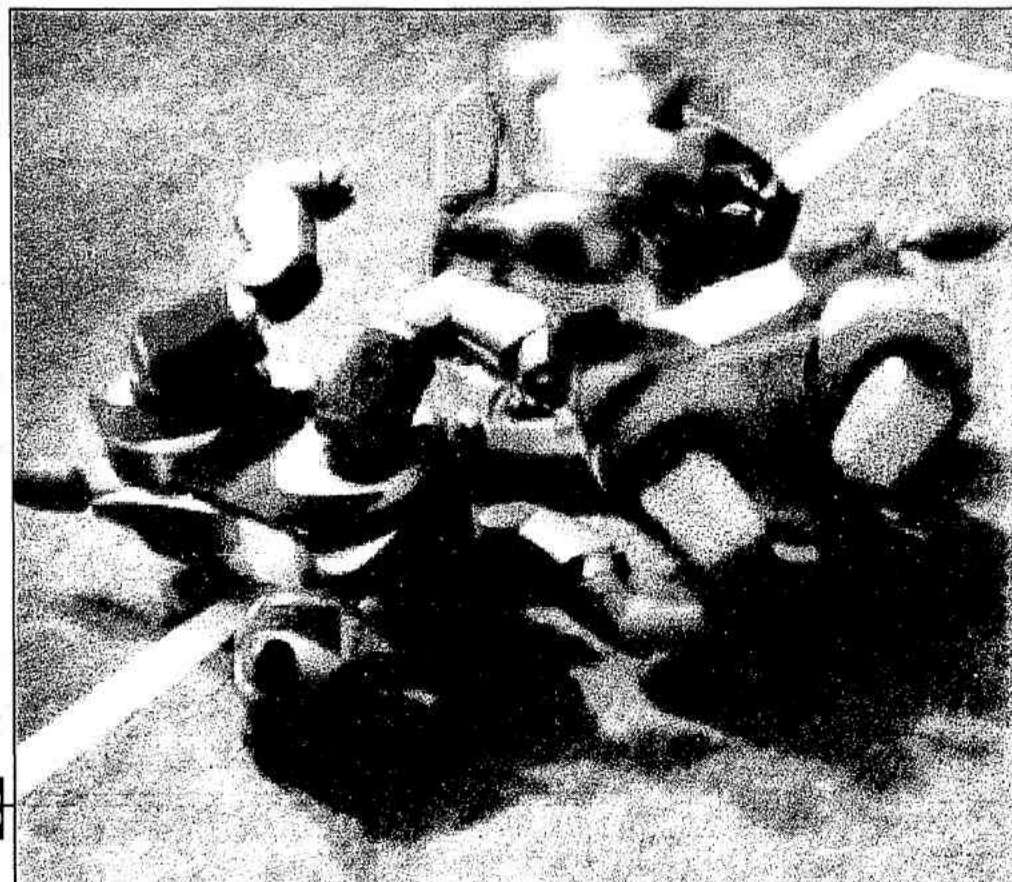
rays, but the ones that move very quickly, bump into things and fall over. Closer to real soccer than I'm comfortable with I must say. And while the developers concentrate on making the exercise as real as possible, until they master various cheating techniques, then they aren't making real progress.

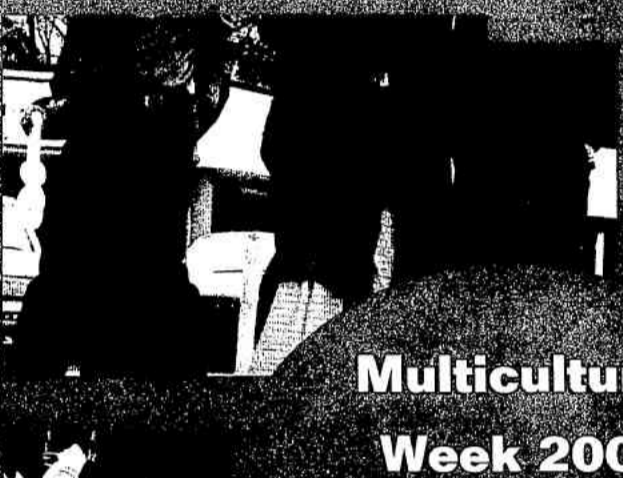
Some ideas for cheating in robot soccer: Given the robots are about 30cm tall, the "oops I spilled my soft drink on your team" strategy might pay dividends just before the big match. Or having a robot on your team called "Sparky" frying the circuits of the opposition robots would be a helpful addition. If anyone complains just explain that he was previously a defender in the Italian Serie B Robot League.

Exploiting the poor design of an opposing team might also be useful. A piece of advice to prospective designers. Don't place the off switch on the exterior of your robots. Within 5 minutes your team will look like the Soceroos during the second leg of a World Cup qualifier; i.e. non-functioning. Having loose wires hanging out of a robot is something to look for, and sending out Edward ScissorClaws is the obvious strategy.

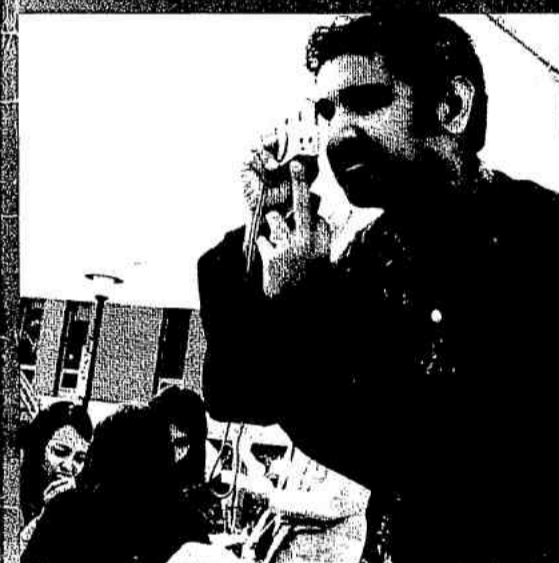
But one area of sports has already succumbed to robots replacing humans. Sport commentary. Just wait for the start of the cricket season, and you will know I speak the truth.

Below: Fouls are treated much more seriously in AIBO soccer due to the fact that they can never get up again.





**Multicultural
Week 2003
Opening
Ceremony**



**Thursday
21 August
Union
Court**



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